

JUMBO Summer Issue! ★ 6 Great Posters You'll Love

americangirl.com

July/August 2008

American Girl

22 fun
ways to get
moving

* Have a tropical
party!

* Make ice cream
treats

* **9** water games
to play with your
friends

Bonus
More pages of
quizzes, posters,
puzzles, and
advice!

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Poster



Splish, Splash, Sports

In the yard or in the pool, these water games will keep you cool!



Girls at Work

Meet girls who have real jobs—and get paid!

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Follow Your Inner Star®



Island Party

Taste the tropics in your own backyard.

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Are You E-nnoying?

You know the best ways to use technology to keep in touch with friends...or *do* you?

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About the Cover

Meet Danica D., age 12.

We asked her some splashy questions about summer.

Would you rather go to a swimming pool, ocean, or lake?

I like the ocean because it's fun going boogie-boarding.

What's your favorite ocean memory?

I was in junior lifeguards. I was paddling on a surfboard with my friend and we saw two dolphins right next to us!

Danica D.

For more about this issue, go to "Behind the Scenes" on page 73.

See AG Online!

Visit "Fun for Girls" at americangirl.com for more magazine fun!

Always get a parent's permission before surfing the Web or giving out your full name, address, or any other personal info.





Green Girl

I loved the "Earth Day Challenge" in the March/April 2008 issue. I told my family about it, and we put the calendar on our fridge so that we all could do it. I also handed out copies of the calendar to my friends so that they could do it, too!

Natalie D.
Age 12, Virginia

Cutting Clutter



Thank you for the ideas for "Clutter Control" in the March/April 2008 issue. I especially liked the idea for storing papers in a decorated mailbox. I am proud to say my room is officially clutter-free!

Becca B.
Age 12, New York

Win It!

On pages 7, 12, and 73, you'll read about our latest Win It! contests. To enter, send a postcard by August 15 with your first and last name and address to:

Win It!—J/A 08
American Girl magazine
8400 Fairway Place
Middleton, WI 53562



Funny Families



I loved Heart to Heart ("Oh, Brother!") in the March/April 2008 issue. The stories were really funny and it showed me that everyone gets embarrassed once in a while. Thanks again, and keep up the good work.

AnnaMarie L. :-)
Age 12, Minnesota

Write to Us!



Want to drop us a line? Write us at:

American Girl magazine
8400 Fairway Place
Middleton, WI 53562

You can also send letters via e-mail to readermail@americangirl.com. Either way, be sure to include your first and last name and your birth date. We can't print every letter we receive, but we read and learn from each one.

Official Rules

1. Employees of American Girl and its affiliates and their families are not eligible.
2. Only one entry per family.
3. To be valid, all entries must be received by mail by August 15, 2008. Entries may not be faxed or e-mailed. **A parent or guardian must sign the entry.**
4. Three winners will be chosen at random.
5. All entries become the property of American Girl and will not be returned.
6. Void where prohibited by law.

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SPECIAL THANKS TO
Faye Benkert, Meagan Eggers, Judith Lary, Travis Mancil, Rhonda Mims-Brown, Valerie Pulvermacher, Jolene Schulz, Mark Speltz, Sally Wood

COVER CREDITS: Wardrobe styling: Alex Wood. Hair: Rhonda Snider-Johnson. OTHER CREDITS: ISLAND PARTY—Wardrobe courtesy of Claire's, Hanna Andersson, Lands' End, L.L. Bean, Old Navy, Ralph Lauren, The Children's Place.

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CUSTOMER SERVICE: 1-800-234-1278. SUBSCRIBER: Send change of address information six weeks before moving to American Girl, P.O. Box 5534, Harlan, IA 51593-1034. Send old address label (recent mailing label is best), new address, and new telephone number, or call 1-800-234-1278. Occasionally, American Girl makes its list of adult and family names available to other reputable companies for their offering of products and services. We make every effort to ensure that girls' names are not included on this list. If you prefer not to receive such mail, please call our customer service department at 1-800-234-1278 or write to us at P.O. Box 620986, Middleton, WI 53562-0986.

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AMERICAN GIRL IS PUBLISHED BY
AMERICAN GIRL PUBLISHING, INC.
8400 Fairway Place
Middleton, WI 53562
E-mail address: readermail@americangirl.com
americangirl.com



Winner of a 2006
Parents' Choice
Silver Award



The National
Magazine
Awards Finalist

American Girl®

Girls

E X P R E S S

Sports Stars

These girls train hard for some pretty unique sports. Read the clues below, and then turn the page to find out more about their exciting activities.



Raquel M.

My helmet is the yellow one with orange flowers on it.

Everything is spinning when I'm performing.



Jackie K.

In my sport, I feel like I'm on top of the world.



Savannah M.



Did You Know?

You'll flip for these fun facts!

Mustard's a Must

This year, August 2 is National Mustard Day. Celebrate the holiday by trying mustard in a new way. Stir a dab of mustard into your ketchup for French fries, or mix a little mustard with honey and eat it with pretzels. Spice up your life!

Buzzword flurry



How to say it: FLER-ree

What it means: a period of sudden commotion, excitement, or confusion



One way to use it: There was a flurry of activity at the pool's snack bar during adult swim.

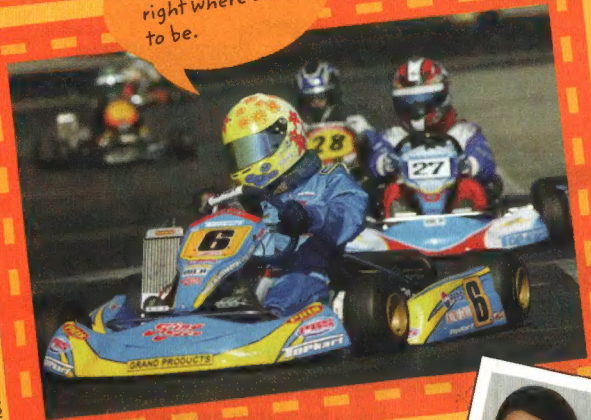
The buzzword is tucked into this issue of *American Girl*. Can you find it? The answer is on page 62.

Find It!



Look for fun facts sprinkled throughout the magazine.

I'm out in front—right where I like to be.



Race-car driver

Raquel M., age 12

Starting out: When I was really little, my dad used to talk to me about all the sports that he thought I might like. Out of all the activities—soccer, ballet, basketball—I thought go-karting sounded like the most fun. When I learned how to drive and got a feel for my car, I started winning races.

Staying in it: My mentor—who is like a coach for me—teaches me to trust myself and my abilities, and my family is always in the stands cheering for me.

Highlights: Winning a bunch of races in 2006—including three national titles—earned me the Triple Crown trophy. That was huge for me because very few people win the award—and few girls have done it.

Here I am at the very top!



Show skier

Jackie K., age 12

Starting out: When I was five, I saw the local show ski team perform, and I loved the costumes! I told my dad right then that I wanted to be on that team. So I learned how to water-ski and joined the team the next year.

Staying in it: When I want to do something new, I tell myself how cool it will be if I can pull it off. Then I practice like crazy. But I'm patient with myself because it can take time to learn new tricks.

Highlights: I'm the national tricks record holder for my age group. At competition, you have 15 seconds to do the best combination of tricks you can, and last year my routine won me enough points to break the record.



Baton-twirler

Savannah M., age 11

Starting out: At a dance class when I was three, the teacher stuck a baton in my hand, and I have been twirling ever since. I compete with a team, and I perform at lots of places, from retirement homes to college basketball games.

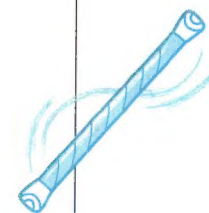
Staying in it: I love how the baton shines, and I am so proud of my work when I get a standing ovation. The greatest thing about twirling is making people smile.

Highlights: In 2006, I went to the World Baton Twirling Championships in the Netherlands with my family and my coach. When I found out that I'd won two gold medals, I was so excited that I couldn't breathe.

Yes, I've got a few things up in the air!



Photo: Portrait Innovations





Design an AG Poster

We want your photos to turn into our posters!

What: Your best photo that shows something beautiful, cute, or cool. We're looking for shots of **animals, landscapes, sunsets, flowers, funny things** you see, and anything else you think would make a great AG poster. Make sure that the image is in focus.

Where: Send a print of your photo, along with your name, address, birth date, and a school photo of yourself, to the address on page 2. If we decide to use your photo, we'll let you know. Sorry, we can't return photos.

Thanks to Theresa W. of Pennsylvania for the cat photo shown above!

PB & J Shake



Katherine F. of Texas sent us this recipe for a yummy summer treat.



Combine 2 scoops vanilla ice cream, 2 tablespoons peanut butter, 2 tablespoons of your favorite jelly, and ½ cup milk in a blender. Ask an adult to blend until smooth. Serve in a tall glass.

Yum!

Creative Corner



Summer Bookmark

Cut out card. Flip over for directions.

AG Poll

In our January/February issue, we asked you to pick your favorite swimsuit style. Here's what you said:

Bikini
199

One-piece
153

Board shorts
146



Next question:

If you had to change your hair color for a day, what color would you pick? Circle your choice.

* Pink

* Purple

* Blue

* Orange

Cut out your answer and mail it to the address on page 2.

Summer Bookmark

Use **scissors** to cut a

flip-flop shape from stiff **felt**. Use a **hole punch** to make three holes in the flip-flop—one at the top and two in the middle (one on each side). Starting at the top, string a **ribbon** through the holes and tie a knot. Add a flower **appliqué** with a **Glue Dot**.

★ American Girl

Back

Help Wanted!

We're looking for **ideas** for new and fun activities to print in our **Brain Waves** section. Let us know what you like, what you don't, and what you think would make it better. Should we put a **sudoku**

puzzle in every issue? Maybe a **magic trick** or **brainteaser**? Send your ideas, along with your address and birth date, to the address on page 2.



Girls Express ★

Shining Star

Nobody likes a mosquito bite. But in Africa, a mosquito bite isn't just annoying—it can be downright dangerous. When Rosy L. found out that one million children die each year from a disease spread by mosquitoes, she knew that she had to find a way to help.

The 12-year-old got involved with a group that raises money to prevent the spread of malaria in Africa. Malaria is spread when infected mosquitoes bite people, often at night when people are asleep. Mosquito nets keep the insects away from kids' beds, preventing the kids from being infected as they sleep. To raise money for the netting, Rosy wrote an article for her school paper that inspired her classmates to donate class-trip money to the cause. She

also held a fund-raising party and auction that raised almost \$2,000. The money bought a lot of nets, which probably saved many lives. "I helped 200 families sleep safely at night," Rosy says. "What makes me happiest about my work is knowing that my involvement in this can make a real difference."

You can shine, too.

At your next slumber party, sit down with your friends to make a list of things that you could do as a group to help others.



Rosy designed the T-shirt she's wearing.

AG Art Gallery

Ahh, summertime. Relax with this cool art.



Chantel R.
Age 15, California



Peyton H.
Age 10, North Carolina



Haley P.
Age 12, Oregon

WIN IT!

We're giving away a suitcase and some AG books to make your vacation even more fun! Turn to page 2 to find out how to enter.

Attacking Your Packing

Try these easy tricks for simplifying your suitcase.

Head to Toe

Lay out entire outfits on your bed before you put anything into your bag. That way you'll realize what you're forgetting—such as the right kind of shoes to go with a dressy outfit or something to wear over your swimsuit when you trek down to the beach.

It's a Wrap

Wrap up a complete outfit—socks, shorts, underwear—by folding the shirt around it. You can grab the whole outfit without having to hunt for any pieces.



Chain Keeper

To keep necklaces from tangling, run one end of each chain through an empty toilet paper tube and fasten the clasp. Store the roll inside a shoe or in a suitcase pocket.



Spill Stopper

Tighten the caps on all liquids, such as shampoo and lotion, and pack them into an insulated lunch bag to prevent leaks onto clothing. Resealable plastic bags work, too.



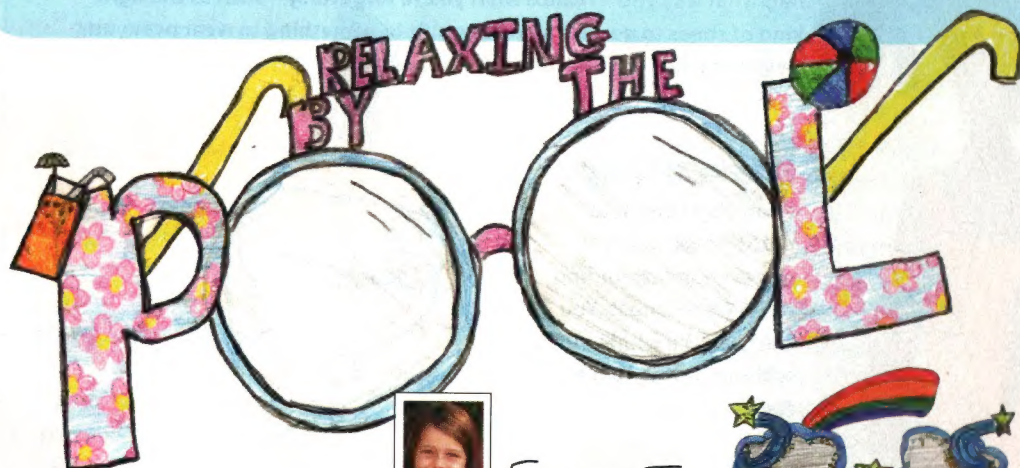
In the Bag

Stuff some empty plastic grocery bags into your suitcase. On your trip, use them to store dirty or wet clothes and shoes. When you get home, clothing from the bags can go straight into the laundry, making unpacking a breeze. Have a great trip! ★



Fun-Glasses!

Look at the sunny shades these girls made!



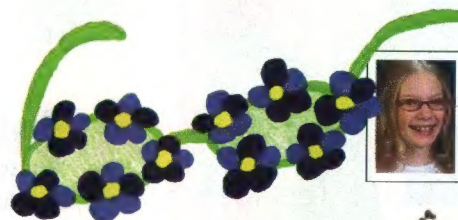
Emma J.
Age 9, Connecticut



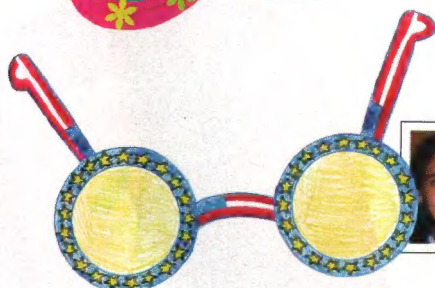
Michelle M.
Age 13, New York



Jackie H.
Age 12, California



Katie H.
Age 12, Pennsylvania



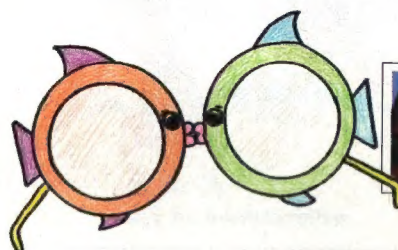
Rachel A.
Age 11, New Mexico



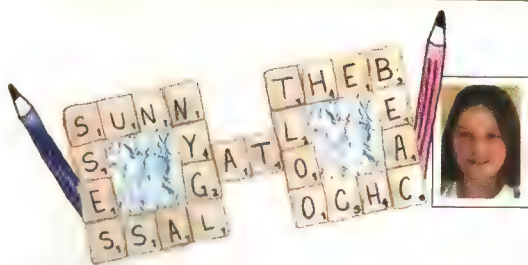
Katie A.
Age 10, Michigan



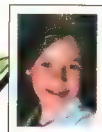
Sarah D.
Age 13, Virginia



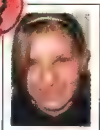
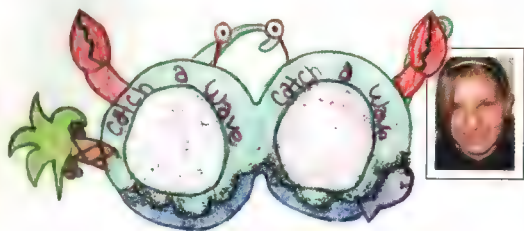
Ellen R.
Age 12, New Jersey



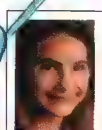
Kathryn W.
Age 13, Massachusetts



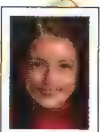
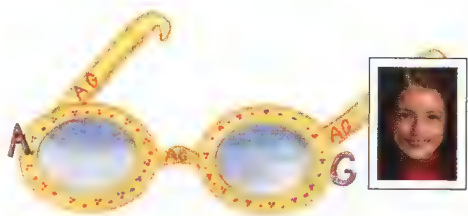
Scout C.
Age 11, Wyoming



Jennifer B.
Age 11, California



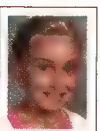
Jessica T.
Age 13, Massachusetts



Monique H.
Age 10, Michigan



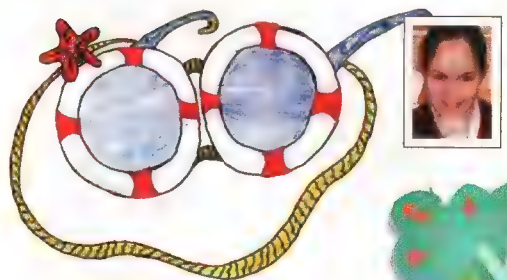
Adrianna A.
Age 11, Florida



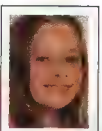
Shannon L.
Age 9, Massachusetts



Anna Z.
Age 7, Pennsylvania



Elisa P.
Age 12, Canada



Paige D.
Age 12, Oregon



Mattie P.
Age 11, California

New Contest: Write a Haiku

A haiku (hy-koo) is a type of poem. The first line has five syllables, the second line has seven syllables, and the third line goes back to five syllables. Look at these examples, then write a haiku about a person, place, or thing that you love.

Send your poem to the address on page 2, along with your first and last name, address, birth date, and school photo. Deadline: August 10, 2008. Winners will appear in the January/February 2009 issue. Sorry, we can't return entries.

PALM TREES GENTLY SWAY
TOES DIG INTO SOFT, COOL SAND
I JUST LOVE THE BEACH!

FLUFFY, WARM PANCAKES
COVERED WITH STICKY SYRUP
DAD MADE BREAKFAST—YUM!

Big Changes

Change is something everyone deals with sooner or later. Here, girls share how they handled a big change.



Learning that I was allergic to wheat was a big change. Kids in my class made fun of me because of the new foods

I had to eat. I just told them, "I'm allergic to wheat, and I like what I eat." I'm proud of what I eat now, and I'm healthier, too.

Emma C.
Age 9, Tennessee



When I got my glasses, I was nervous because I

didn't know what people were going to say. And I was really nervous when I got braces, too. Even though I was teased, I knew that the glasses would help my eyesight and that the braces would give me a wonderful smile.

Michalia F.
Age 11, South Carolina



When I started home-schooling, I missed my friends at

my old school. Then my family started having parties and inviting other home-schoolers over. Now I've made a lot of new friends, and I love home-schooling.

Evangeline S.
Age 9, Washington



One of the biggest changes in my life was

when my aunt died. To deal with this change, I bought a binder and put things into it to help me remember her. Every night, I look through the binder and think of her, and it makes me feel better.

Marianna D.
Age 13, New Jersey





My family recently adopted twin newborn boys.

I was really nervous that my parents wouldn't be there for me and my siblings anymore. But after the boys came, my family actually became closer.

Rosie M.
Age 13, Virginia



My family just moved. At first I didn't want to move,

but then I thought, *I can design my new room when I get there!* So I started saving money and planning what I wanted my room to look like. This helped me to get excited instead of being sad about moving.

Eliza S.
Age 11, Colorado



Speak from Your Heart

Next subject: Being strong.

When faced with a nerve-wracking situation, how do you cope on your own?

Maybe you give yourself a pep talk, or dancing in your room pumps you up. Maybe wearing your lucky bracelet is a confidence booster.

Share how you find inner strength in tough situations.

Send your answer, name, birth date, and school photo to the address on

page 2. Deadline: August 10, 2008. Some answers

will appear in the January/February 2009 issue. ★

Big Truth Life is full of changes, **BIG** and **small**.



When I moved from elementary to middle school, I was

worried that I would get lost or embarrass myself. Then I realized that everyone else was just as confused and lost as I was! After that, I started to relax.

Julie L.
Age 12, New Jersey



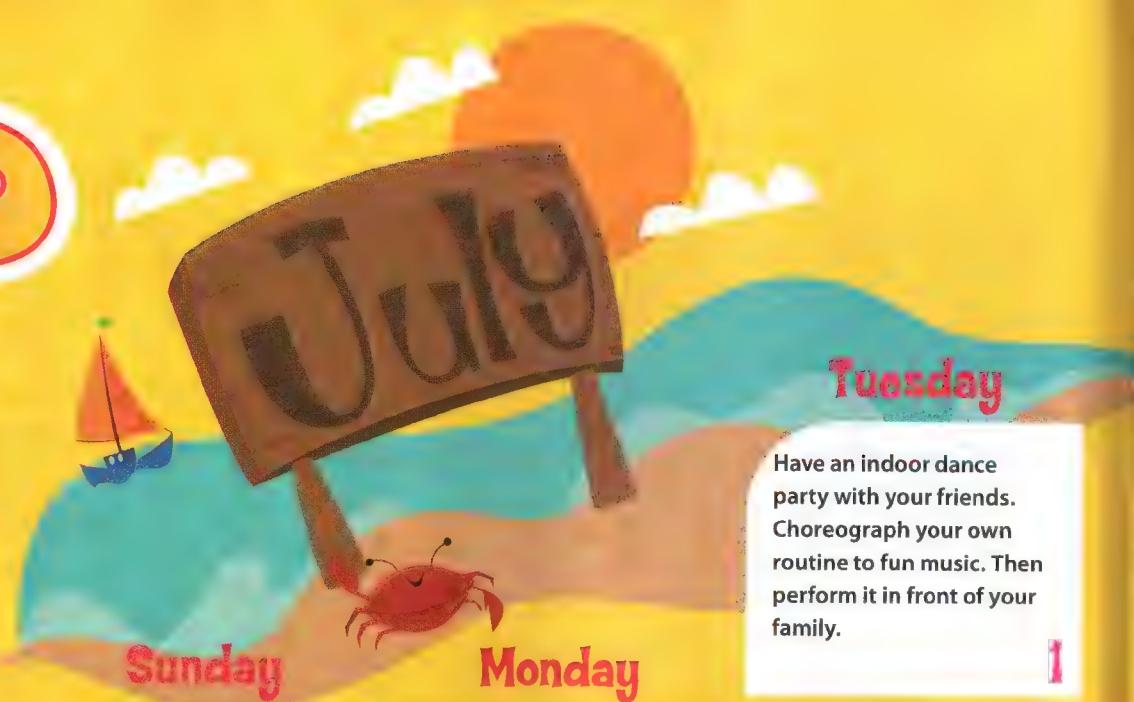
Two years ago, I moved from Oregon to Argentina.

I was nervous because I didn't speak Spanish. Then in school, I met girls from all over the world and learned to communicate with them. It's been a great experience!

Eva W.
Age 11, Argentina



Top 30 Do Today



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Love the mall? Try shopping outside instead. Ask a parent to take you to a local outdoor flea market to spot one-of-a-kind finds.


6

Today is **Father-Daughter Take a Walk Together Day**. Go for a stroll around the block or hike in a state park with your dad. Ask him to tell funny stories from his childhood.

7

July is **National Blueberry Month**. Sprinkle blueberries over lemon-flavored sorbet for a tart treat.

8

 Make a fresh fruit smoothie. Ask an adult to help you blend a banana, a few strawberries, blueberry yogurt, and orange juice in a blender. Pour and enjoy!

13



Play tag with a "safety zone." Use chalk on pavement to outline a pair of feet. You're "safe" only when you stand in the chalk feet.

21

Personalize a reusable water bottle to tote on hot days. Doodle on the bottle with brightly colored permanent markers.

15



22

Visit a farmers' market and pick up healthy summer goodies. Strawberries and raspberries are at their best in the summer. Both taste great over vanilla ice cream!

27



Win a bag of get-active goodies! Details on page 2.



29

Stay active and healthy this summer with these fun, get-moving activities.

Wednesday

Go for a walk in the woods, in a park, or at the beach with a family member. Start a new collection of things you can find outside, such as pink seashells or heart-shaped rocks.

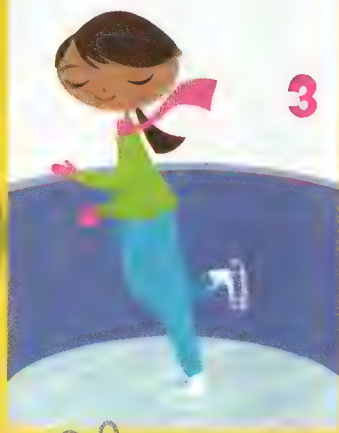
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Thursday

Today is **Stay Out of the Sun Day**. Keep cool by going to an indoor ice rink.

3



Friday

Happy Fourth of July!

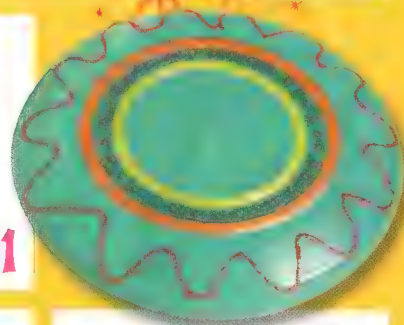
With your friends, give your bikes and scooters patriotic flair by decorating them with red, white, and blue streamers or sparkly silver stars.

4



Decorate a Frisbee today. Use glittery stickers or puffy paint to make it sparkle in the sun. Let dry.

11



Today, run laps with a friend around your neighborhood. For every lap you finish, you get a bead. When you've run as many laps as you can, go home to make a beaded bracelet.

16



Have a scavenger hunt with a friend in your neighborhood. See if you can spot these items: a garden gnome, a blue bike, a baby pool, an American flag, and a butterfly.

19



Make a pair of sparkly sunglasses today by attaching rhinestone scrapbook stickers to a plain pair.

23

Remember to wear sunscreen whenever you go outside! Stay cool by putting your sunscreen in the fridge before slathering it on.

24

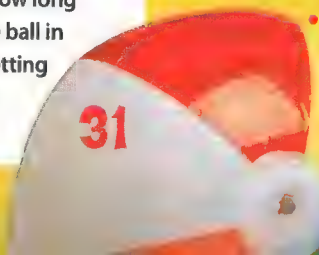


25

For a summer version of hockey, try playing broomball with a few friends. Use brooms instead of hockey sticks and a tennis ball for the puck.

Invite your friends over to play volleyball with a giant beach ball. See how long you can keep the ball in the air without letting it hit the ground.

31



Top 10 To Do



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

It's **National Watermelon Day**. Float small chunks of watermelon in a pitcher of lemonade. Leave it in the fridge overnight to let the watermelon soak up the lemonade. Yum!



Visit the library or video store today and pick up a fun DVD for kids that can teach you a new activity. You can try yoga, Pilates, or dance.



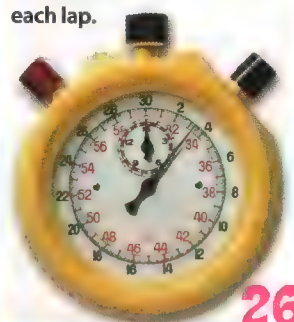
Fill a spray bottle with cold water and ice, and put it into the fridge. When you come in from being outside, spray yourself for an icy blast.



Wear a bandanna in a bright color today. Keep cool by dipping it into cold water before tying it on.



Timing yourself on a watch, see how fast you can go around your block. Walk the first lap, then fast-walk or run for a few more laps. See if you can improve your time with each lap.



The first day of school is almost here. Stay active during recess with fun fitness challenges, such as a jump-rope marathon.

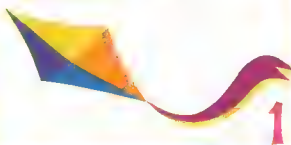
24/31

26



Friday

Go fly a kite! Pick a safe, open area with lots of room to run around.



1

Saturday

Get a newspaper and find out where garage sales are being held in your town. Choose a neighborhood where there are lots of them, and walk with a parent to each one.

2

Wednesday



6

Thursday

Tired of the same old jump-roping songs? Gather a couple of friends and make up a brand-new rhyme to jump rope to, using the tune of a popular song.

7

Today is **Left-Handers Day**. If you're not a lefty, try playing a game or sport today left-handed for a fun challenge.

13



The **Olympic Games** begin today! To celebrate, hold an Olympic-style event in your backyard. Invite family and friends to compete in quick relay races before the Olympics start on TV.

8

Ask a parent if you can hold a bike wash today. Grab a sponge and fill some large buckets with soap and water. Charge \$1 per bike.

15



Today, play switch-leg soccer. For two minutes, kick the ball with just your right foot. Then switch to your left foot for another two minutes. Repeat for as long as you can!

20

On this day in 1959, **Hawaii became the 50th state**. Host a Hawaiian party today! Play tropical-themed games, such as the ones beginning on page 30, in your backyard.

21

Organize a game of kickball with your friends, but instead of running around the bases, hop, skip, or dance.

22

Go to an orchard and pick your own apples today. Then try some apple slices with different flavored dips, such as cream cheese, caramel, peanut butter, or honey.

27



Turn to page 40 for lots of stay-cool water games you and your friends can play outside. ★



29

Gather up your friends and play mini golf today!



Who Came First?

You're neat as a pin, and your sister is messy. How can you be so different? It might have something to do with when you were born.



First in Line

If you're an oldest child, you might have these take-charge traits:

Reliable People can always count on you to get things done.

Organized You've got a place for everything!

A leader You're a born boss, someone who takes control.

A perfectionist You try your hardest to make everything the best it can possibly be.

Conscientious You pay attention and try to do the right thing.

Middle Matters

Living in the middle, you're likely to have some of these qualities:

The peacemaker If there's a fight, you usually play referee.

Afraid of conflict You'll do anything to avoid trouble with others.

Easygoing You're good at being flexible and going with the flow.

Loyal You stick by your friends and family through thick and thin.

Friendly You get along with everyone, young and old.



Baby of the Family

If you're the youngest, these personality traits might describe you:

Charming Everyone's attracted to your winning personality.

The star You feel right at home in the spotlight.

Affectionate If someone's feeling blue, you're quick to give a hug.

Outgoing You're not the least bit shy. You love to talk to people.

Persuasive You're a pro at getting your way.



QUIZ



Birth Order

Do your answers match your real place in your family?

1. Today is your birthday. You've planned the party activities, but your guests start to play another game instead. What do you say?
 - a. "But this is a tropical-themed party, and that's not a tropical game."
 - b. "No problem. I love that game!"
 - c. "If you think that game is fun, just wait until you see what we're going to do now!"

2. Fast-forward to the year 2037. Where are you?
 - a. Working on making the world a better place from your desk in the White House
 - b. Being a family counselor, helping people solve their problems and get along better
 - c. Starting your own business writing and illustrating funny children's books

3. Hooray for the weekend! What is your favorite way to spend time on a Saturday?
 - a. Tackling a challenging craft project
 - b. Getting a bunch of friends together for a movie marathon at your house
 - c. Hanging around doing whatever the rest of the family is doing

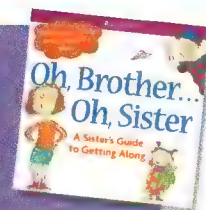


Do you agree?

How did you match up? Remember, the order in which you were born doesn't decide who you are and what you're like—you're in charge of that. ★



Advice for getting along with siblings can be found in *Oh, Brother... Oh, Sister*, available in bookstores.



Girls at Work

These AG readers share what
it's really like to have a job—
and to get paid!

Julia



Kei



Natalie



Taylor



Anna



"Taking this job—and doing it well—has given me the confidence to trust my instincts."

Julia B.

Dance assistant



Name: Julia B., age 13

Where I work: At a dance studio in my hometown in Minnesota

How I got started: I've been dancing at a studio since I was three years old. This past summer while I was at dance camp, a counselor noticed that I liked the younger kids. She asked if I'd like to be an assistant teacher. I didn't know what to expect, but it turned out to be so much fun.

Typical day: I teach ballet, tap, and jazz every Tuesday after school. The preschoolers come at 4:15, and I work with three other teachers, who all are older than I am. I also help teach a high-school class. Sometimes I even give private lessons.

Earnings: I teach for about three hours a week and make \$7 per hour. It is amazing that I get a paycheck! I give most of the money to my parents for

safekeeping. Earning my own spending money makes me feel responsible.

I love my job because:

I get to work with little kids and great teachers. It also was exciting when the studio gave me a key so that I could give private lessons. *Wow, I thought. They really trust me.*

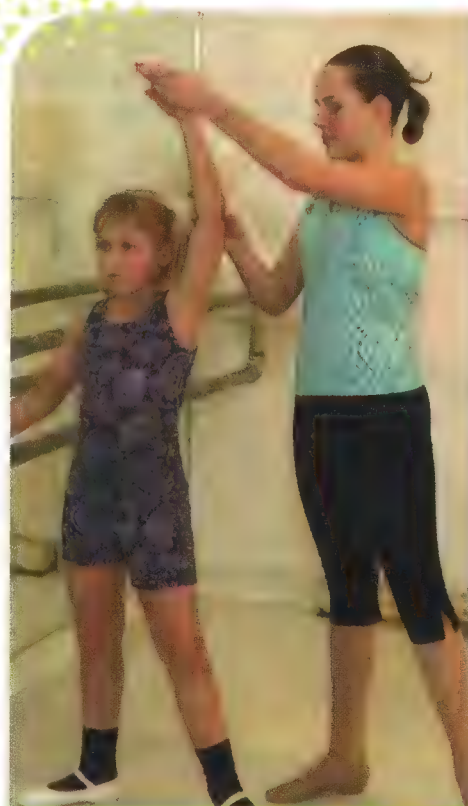
My job is hard because:

Teaching girls older than I am was hard at first. But after the head teacher reminded me that I have ten years of experience, which is a lot more than the other students, I felt much more confident.

Biggest lesson learned:

I have learned to trust myself. I used to worry a lot and avoid taking risks. Taking this job—and doing it well—has given me the confidence to trust my instincts.

My future plans: I want to keep dancing and teaching as much as possible.



I love teaching! When I was a student, I was so happy to be able to help other students. In the future, I want to be a teacher and help other students learn to dance.

Photos: Jennifer Weisser



"I get to help my parents, even in just the tiniest ways. I'm lucky to be exposed to business life."

Kei M.

Office clerk



Name: Kei M., age 10

Where I work: At my parents' accounting office in California

How I got started: One year during tax season, my parents were so busy that I offered to help them. They taught me how to use the fax machine, to send out messages, and to make photocopies. I've been helping them ever since.

Typical day: How much I work depends on how much homework I have. But usually when I get home from school, I help my parents check messages, make photocopies, and shred confidential documents. If we have clients stop by, I offer them something to drink and chat with them while they wait to see my parents.

Earnings: My parents pay me about \$100 per month, which I put into a savings account for college.

I love my job because:

I get to help my parents, even in just the tiniest ways. I'm lucky to be exposed to business life. I especially like making color copies—they are amazing.

My job is hard because:

Dealing with fax numbers, phone numbers, and copy machines can be confusing. I've gotten some paper cuts, too!

Biggest lesson learned:

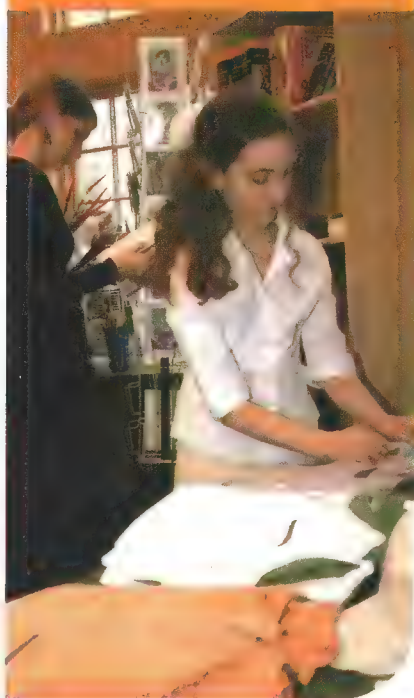
I've learned that helping people, especially my parents, is a very important part of life.

My future plans: I am saving up for college. I want to be a doctor. This way, I can keep helping people—just in a different way.



Here, I'm waiting for a form to print. Print, please! In the top photo, I've got my headset on and am ready to take phone calls.

(over of time, I hand out playbills at the theater. But here, I'm sitting in the gift shop, and in the photo below, I'm working coffee at the snack bar.



Photos: Andrew Murad

Name: Natalie K., age 12

Where I work: At a theater in New Jersey

How I got started:

At theater camp last summer, I ushered as one of our activities. I liked it so much that I just kept doing it.

Typical day: On the night of a show, I arrive an hour early to help clean up and get the theater ready for the show. When the guests start arriving, I hand out playbills and show people to their seats. During intermission, I help in the gift shop or the snack bar.

Earnings: I get paid in tickets, good for any performance at the theater. I earn one ticket for each night I work, or two tickets for working on an opening night. I used two tickets to take my mom to see a production of *Henry VI*, which is a Shakespeare play.

I love my job because:

I love everything about theater, from acting to costume design. As an usher, I get to be a part of what's going on before the curtains open. When someone can't find his or her seat, I always know just where to look.

My job is hard because:

Normally I get to go home after intermission. But when I work on an opening night, we have to set up food and stay late. It's still really fun—just hard work.

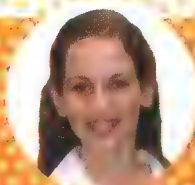
Biggest lesson learned:

I've learned a lot about working with people—such as what to do when two people each think that a certain seat is hers. Also, working in the gift shop and snack bar helps with math!

My future plans:

I want to be a costume designer for a theater when I grow up.

Theater usher



"As an usher, I get to be a part of what's going on before the curtains open."

Natalie K.





“Looking at the photos of all my finished bags inspires me to make even more.”

Taylor C.

Bag designer



Name: Taylor C., age 14

Where I work: In my own sewing workspace at home in New York

How I got started:

When I first started taking horseback-riding lessons, I needed a bag to carry my riding gear. I like to sew, so I made myself a bag. My first one was plain, but later I made one with a horse design. Everybody at the stable loved my horse tote and wanted one, too. Then I carried a bag at school, and the same thing happened—everybody wanted one, including my bus driver! So I started making and selling them.

Typical day:

After school, I usually head downstairs, where I keep my sewing machine and supplies. I have lots of upholstery fabric, ribbon, and trim. To start a design, I make an outline. Then I trace pieces of the design onto different types and colors of fabric. In addition to horses, my designs have included moose, flowers, and teddy bears.

Earnings: I have made about 25 bags so far, and I sell them for between \$15 and \$25, depending on the design. I have saved most of the money, but I also spend some on fabric and trim. It feels good to earn my own money.

I love my job because:

People are so happy when they get their bags! Each bag is different. When I finish a bag, I take a picture. Looking at the photos of all my finished bags inspires me to make even more.

My job is hard because:

If I get a seam wrong, it's hard to take the stitches out and fix it!

Biggest lesson learned:

Having my own business helps keep me organized. I have order forms, and I keep them nice and neat.

My future plans:

I just focus on one bag at a time.



Here, I've put some of my creations. I like that each one is unique. In the top photo, I'm hard at work in my sewing space.

Here, I'm cleaning up and hanging out with the goats. And in the photo below, I'm showing off a hedgehog. I wear thick gloves to protect my hands from its quills.



Name: Anna R., age 13

Where I work:

At a zoo in Louisiana

How I got started:

My mom and I visited the zoo a lot when I was little. I always enjoyed chatting with the volunteers. When I was in seventh grade, I finally reached the minimum age required to apply to work as a volunteer. After I made it into the program, I trained for four weeks, handling animals such as small snakes, chinchillas, guinea pigs, and insects.

Typical day: I usually work Sunday afternoons. I work with other volunteers to give presentations, showing the animals or talking about animal artifacts. I also help feed animals and clean the exhibits. Our volunteer leader keeps things fun, like the time she made us give all of our presentations in rhyme.

Earnings: Working at the zoo, I earn service hours for school. This year, I needed 25 service hours, but

because I work every weekend, I've already passed 200 hours!

I love my job because:

Some days I get to work with the hedgehogs. Also, the animals can be very calming, such as when I sit with the chickens and just listen to them clucking softly.

My job is hard because:

I'm afraid of snakes, so learning to handle them has been a challenge for me. But I just take a deep breath and know that I can always put the snake away if I have to. Another hard part is that every so often, my memory goes blank when I'm talking to visitors, and I have to grab my notebook to answer their questions!

Biggest lesson learned:

Having little kids ask me, "Will the animals bite?" a million times has taught me patience.

My future plans:

I'll keep volunteering at the zoo and see where it takes me. I love what I do! ★

Junior zookeeper



"I'm afraid of snakes, so learning to handle them has been a challenge for me."

Anna R.



You Pick It

Fashion Frenzy

You picked your favorite topic in our online vote and sent us a flurry of fashion for these pages. Here are some stylish submissions!

Follow Your Fashion

Whether your fashion is funky, sporty, or sweet,
wear it with pride and move to your own beat.

Whatever styles or trends you choose,
make them dazzle and don't let them be a snooze!

Show who you are by how you dress,
and you will be guaranteed to impress.

Pink, purple, black, or blue,
let a rainbow cover you from your hat to your shoes.

Don't blend in with the crowd—
show the real you and always be proud.

Let your true colors shine about
and spread your real beauty inside and out!



Lauren B.
Age 14, Pennsylvania



Fashion Sketchbook

Turn a plain journal into a sketchbook for your fashion-design doodles. Glue a piece of colored paper to the front of the journal. Use **craft glue** to attach **buttons, fabric, and ribbon scraps**. Add your name with **glitter puffy paint**. Let dry. Now start designing your own line of clothing!



Emily L.
Age 11, California

Fashion Charades

1. This game starts with a big pile of clothes and accessories—goofy hats, old Halloween costumes, or themed dress-up clothes.
2. Pass around blank notecards to all the players and ask them to write down a “place” on each card—for example, a rodeo, a classroom, or the beach.
3. When everyone is finished writing, collect the cards and put them in a pile. Choose one girl to go first. She picks a card (without showing anyone else).
4. Then she chooses three items to wear that will help her act out the place that is written on her card. Remember, in Charades there is no talking!
5. The remaining girls guess the place based on the girl’s actions and outfit. The girl who guesses correctly first gets to pick the next card.



Geena G.
Age 11, New Jersey

Meet three girls who love fashion as much as you do!

“I make things out of duct tape—purses, backpacks, and even shoelaces! I made my first duct-tape creation in fourth grade. In fifth grade, my friend and I turned our designs into a business. We sell our duct-tape creations at school. Now that I’m in sixth grade, I carry my designs everywhere. I consider duct tape a major fashion statement!”

Lauren F.
Age 12, Florida



Emma



“Last month, my friend Emma and I thought it would be fun to create a fashion magazine for our classmates to read. We got together and brainstormed the name of the magazine—*Catwalk Magazine*.”

Laura D.
Age 12, Canada

We came up with some great features, including debates, tips, and contests. Now many people enjoy reading our magazine. We are so proud of our work.”

Fashion Jokes

What would you call a fashionable vase?



Rose W.
Age 10, Nebraska

A boo-consister.

What piece of clothing do you inherit from your parents?



Stephanie K.
Age 12, Maryland

Your jeans.

What does a shirt wear to the beach?



Rebekah M.
Age 8, Ohio

A boo-loni!

"Would You Rather?" Fashion Quiz



Haley A.
Age 11, Missouri

- 1.** Which accessory would you rather wear in your hair?
- a. a barrette with your hair half-up
 - ☒ b. a headband with your hair down
 - c. a scrunchie in your ponytail

- 2.** Which sleepwear would you prefer?
- a. a big T-shirt
 - b. a pretty nightgown
 - ☒ c. a mismatched tank top and pajama pants



- 3.** Where would you rather be on a weekend?
- ☒ a. I'd rather lounge around the house.
 - b. I'd love to go to a spa.
 - c. I'd explore the dinosaur exhibit at a museum.

- 4.** What outfit would you choose to wear to the mall?
- a. dress pants, a striped shirt, and a bright jacket
 - b. a skirt, leggings, and a shirt with floral embroidery
 - ☒ c. jeans and a comfy T-shirt

- 5.** Which scent do you prefer?
- ☒ a. baked brownies
 - b. perfume
 - c. freshly cut grass

- 6.** Which would you rather have in your room?
- a. a lava lamp
 - b. a lamp with a swirly pattern
 - ☒ c. a reading lamp that clips to my headboard

- 7.** Which beach towel would you rather use?
- a. bold and bright with a big picture
 - b. pink floral
 - ☒ c. simple stripes

If you chose mostly a's, you are laid-back and love to relax. Though you don't care too much about fashion, you know what's popular right now. You have a unique and kind attitude.

If you chose mostly b's, you are in style and love to follow fashion trends. You especially love to dress up! You are sweet and enjoy being with others.

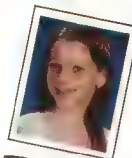
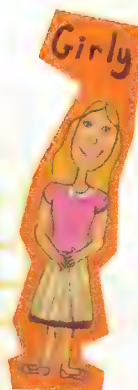
If you chose mostly c's, you are active! You are comfortable with your style and you have a wonderful attitude—both bring you lots of friends!



Fashion Artwork



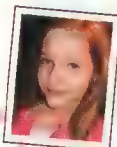
Ella P.
Age 10, Wisconsin



Emma T.
Age 10, Florida



Catherine M.
Age 12, California



Caroline W.
Age 10, Michigan



Alyssa P.
Age 12, Wisconsin

Passion for Fashion

Can you find the following outfits in this picture? ★

Pirate costume

Snorkeling wetsuit

Tankini

Wintersnowsuit

Ballerina outfit

Princess gown



Corinne V.
Age 10, Connecticut



Answers on page 62

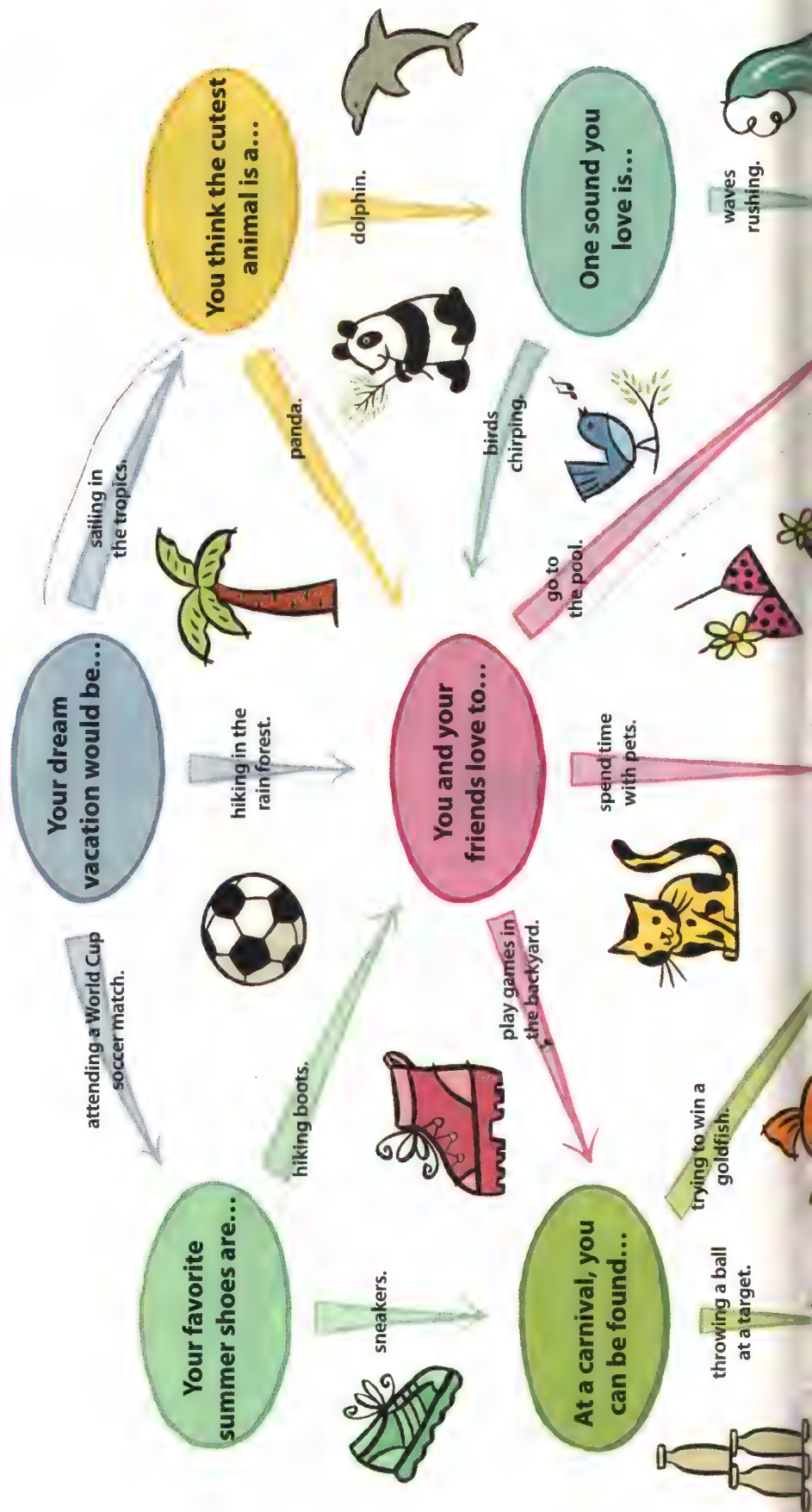


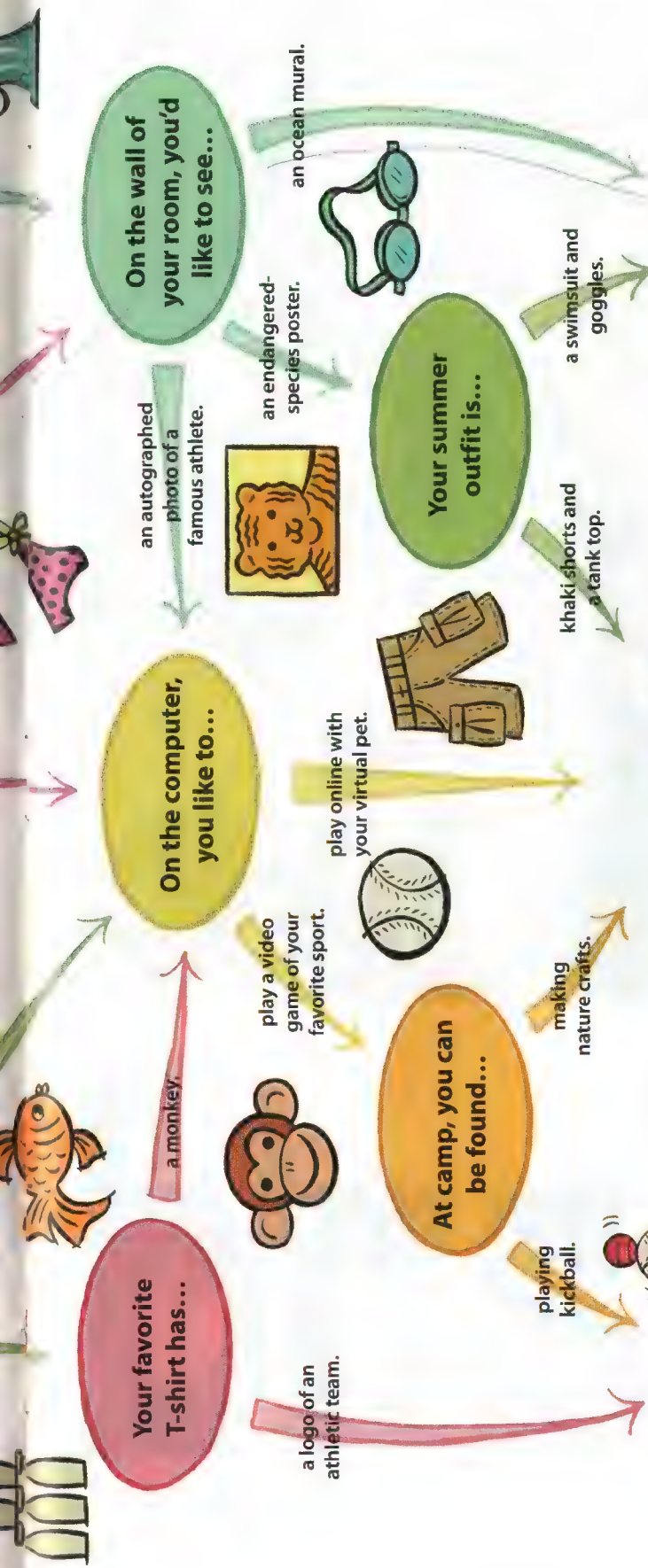
What's Your Summer Personality?



What's your idea of summer fun? Take this quiz to find out what kinds of outdoor activities you'll like best.

START





Your favorite T-shirt has...

a logo of an athletic team.

a monkey.

play a video game of your favorite sport.

On the computer, you like to...

an autographed photo of a famous athlete.

On the wall of your room, you'd like to see...

an endangered-species poster.

an ocean mural.

At camp, you can be found...

playing kickball.

making nature crafts.

play online with your virtual pet.

khaki shorts and a tank top.

Your summer outfit is...

a swimsuit and goggles.

Sporty Sort

You're always looking for a game to join or a new sport to try. Whether you're playing with a team or on your own, you're always up for a challenge.



- * Try a new sport that's different from the one sport you usually play. If you're a basketball player, try tennis. If you like to run, try swimming.
- * Encourage others to get active. If they want to sit on the couch, suggest a bike ride or a backyard soccer game instead.

Green Queen

You're a friend to the environment and love being outdoors, looking at beautiful flowers and spotting animals. You also care a lot about your pets.



- * Help raise money for an animal shelter. Sell unwanted items at your family's next garage sale, and make a poster telling customers that proceeds will go to your local animal shelter.
- * Plant a new tree in your yard. Be sure to ask permission first. Then help care for the tree as it grows.



Miss Mermaid

Has anyone ever told you that you're part-girl, part-fish? You love being in the water so much, you just might be!



- * Invite your friends to a pool and make up a synchronized swimming routine. Have some one take pictures of your funniest poses.
- * If you usually swim at the pool, try swimming in a new place. Ask your parents to take you to a local lake or beach where swimming is allowed. ★



Island



Photos: Jose Martinez Styling: Liliana Felix, Jamie Hanson, Tammy Lopez. Additional credits on page 2.

Bring Hawaii to your backyard with tropical games and food!



Message-in-a-Bottle Invitations

Fill empty plastic bottles with sand and shells. Write the party details on pieces of paper. Then roll up the papers, tie them with ribbon, and slip one into each bottle. Replace the bottle caps.



Hula Moolah

Pass out hula moolah (seashells) to your guests. At the end of the party, they can spend the hula moolah on party favors from the Souvenir Shop such as tropical candy, coconuts, or sunglasses.



Table Setting

Use colorful plates and silverware at your party. Place a pretty fake flower at each table setting for your guests to take home.

Party





Aloha Attire

Pair up and choose one girl to be the model and one to be the designer. Each pair has to use paper streamers to design and make a hula outfit in 5 minutes. Model the creations by dancing across the yard.

Lava Punch

Serve a punch with some punch! Before pouring your favorite red punch into a plastic cup, squeeze strawberry syrup onto a small plate. Pour Pop Rocks onto a second plate. Dip the rim of the plastic cup in syrup and then in the Pop Rocks. Fill the cup with punch and take a sip—it's like an erupting volcano!



Flip-Flop Walk

Line up and ask players to place a seashell on each of their feet. On "Flip-flop!" players try to walk to the other side of the yard without dropping the shells. If someone drops one of the shells, she has to start over!



Personalized Pizzas



Ask an adult to slice an English muffin and toast it. Spread pizza sauce on the English muffin. Top with shredded cheese and pepperoni or make a

Hawaiian-style pizza with cheese, pineapple, and ham. Ask an adult to microwave the pizza for 30 seconds or until the cheese melts. Let cool before eating.



Frozen Fruit Flowers



Place a cored pineapple in the freezer for two hours. Remove from freezer and ask an adult to slice the pineapple into thick rings. Use a large metal cookie cutter to cut the rings into flower shapes. Place a small strawberry in the center of each ring. Ask an adult to insert a skewer into the fruit to hold it together.



Banana Coconut Cream Pies

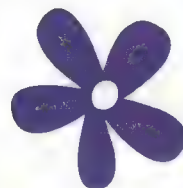
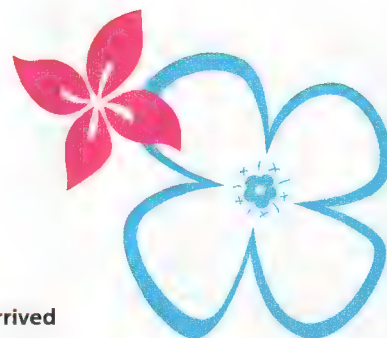


Make mini pies for your guests. Ask an adult to slice a banana. Layer slices at the bottom of pre-made mini graham cracker piecrusts. Pour vanilla pudding over the

bananas. Spread whipped cream on top of the pies and finish with a sprinkle of shredded coconut or add chocolate malted-milk balls for "coconuts."

Quick Questions

Pretend that you just arrived in Hawaii. In this game, all players can speak only in questions. One player starts by asking a question to another player, such as, "What would you like to do in Hawaii?" That player has to answer with another question, such as, "Do you want to go surfing?" She can direct her question to any player. If someone hesitates or doesn't answer with another question, she is out. Play until only one girl is left.



Hula Hoop-la

Get your group through a hoop! Players stand in a line and hold hands. They pass a hula hoop from one end of the line to the other—without letting go of hands.



Island Hop

Divide into two teams.
Each team needs two beach towels—one to lay on the ground and one to hold.
To start, each team stands on its first towel. On "Aloha!" each team must lay the second towel down and then move to that towel without any players stepping on the grass. Once everyone is on the second towel, the team picks up the first towel and places it in front of themselves. Keep going until a team reaches the finish line.



Sunset Snack Mix

This mix is a good snack to eat between games. Mix a dried tropical fruit mix with popcorn. Or mix in your own favorite dried fruits—strawberry, pineapple, and mango are delicious. Top with chopped macadamia nuts and shredded coconut.



Coconut Drop

In the first round of this game, each girl has one balloon. Set a timer for one minute. Tell players to toss up the balloons and, using their hands, try to keep them all in the air for one minute. If all the balloons are still up after one minute, go on to the next round. In round two, reset the timer but add one more balloon—now there should be more balloons than there are people. See how many balloons you and your friends can keep in the air!



Postcards from Paradise

Use the poster between these pages as a photo backdrop. Ask an adult to take photos of your guests in front of it—if you zoom in closely, it will look as if you are standing

by the ocean. After the party, glue the photos onto blank postcards and send them to your guests. Remember to say *mahalo* for coming. (It means “thank you” in Hawaiian.) ★



Are You E-nnoying?

Technology makes it easy to keep in touch with friends. But is easier always better? Take this quiz to see if you're an e-expert.

1. You see that a couple of your friends are online, and they IM you. One girl asks if you've heard about the surprise party for your friend Audrey. You join in—after all, Audrey isn't part of this IM chat, so she'll never know.

☐ That's me.

☒ No way.

2. You're really excited about having a cell phone, so you always keep it out where people can see it, even when you aren't using it.

☐ That's me.

☒ No way.



3. You're playing a board game at your friend Peyton's house. Suddenly, your cell phone rings—it's Sarah, your friend from soccer. You've been trying to catch up with her for a week, so you talk to her for just a few minutes.

☐ That's me.

☒ No way.

4. Cool! You just got a long e-mail from your friend Anna, who moved away a couple of months ago. She sent pictures, too! You want to send her a long message back, so you wait to reply until you have more time. Before you know it, a week has gone by when you find time to write her back.

☒ That's me.

☐ No way.

5. Today is your friend Grace's birthday. You call her at home. Her answering machine picks up, so you sing "Happy Birthday" and say, "Call me!" She'll totally recognize your voice.

☐ That's me.

☒ No way.



Answers

If you checked “That’s me” for any of the questions, read on for some tech tips.

1. Secrets are secrets, whether they’re shared out loud, or on paper, or typed on a keyboard. Remember that anything you type can be printed off or shown to many other people—including friends, parents, and teachers—even if it’s *supposed* to be a secret.



2. Leaving your phone out all the time is just showing off. Keep it in your purse or bag for when you need it—not in plain sight.



3. If you’re doing something with one friend, it’s rude to make her wait while you talk on the phone to someone else. Keep your attention on the friend you are with, and let the other friend leave a message.

4. It’s nice to write a long message, but if someone sends you something special, try to reply right away to let her know that you got it and that you’ll write more later.



5. Answering machines can distort people’s voices, so always say who you are (first AND last name). Leave a short message, and save singing a song for when you see your friend in person.

Top E-Tips

- * Remember that if you wouldn’t say something out loud, you shouldn’t type it, either.
- * It can be tempting to share secrets online, but it’s not a good idea. Ask your friends ahead of time to agree not to.
- * Think before you send something—once you send it, you can’t un-send it.
- * Technology is cool, but take breaks sometimes. It’s important to spend time with your friends in person, too. ★



Splash, Sports

Whether you're in the yard or in the pool, be active and stay cool!



Splash—You're It!

Play a soggy game of tag with a sprinkler and a sponge. One player is It. She tries to tag another player with a wet sponge. Whoever gets tagged becomes the new It. If a player is standing underneath the sprinkler, she can't be tagged. The sprinkler acts as the "safe" area.



Splat Bat

Pitch a few water balloons to a friend for some wet and wild batting practice.



More than 25 million hula hoops were sold in the first few months after they were introduced in 1958.

Aqua Obstacle Course

Set up an obstacle course that will keep players moving and get them wet. Everyone begins by hula-hooping 10 times under a sprinkler and then jumping in and out of a row of inner tubes. Next, players push a beach ball across the yard with a pool noodle. Then each player ends the course by dumping a bucket of water over her head. See who can get through the course fastest!



Volleyballoon

Two teams of two players each stand on either side of a volleyball net. Players on each side hold a towel between them. One team serves a water balloon to the other side by placing it in the towel and launching it over the net. The

players on the other side must catch the balloon in their towel and then launch it back. If the balloon breaks on one team's side, the other team gets a point. If a team launches the balloon out-of-bounds, the other team gets a point. Play to 10.



Splashketball

Two players stand facing each other. One player throws a water balloon and the other player tries to make it go through a hula hoop. The catch: the player throwing the balloon must shut her eyes! When a basket is made, switch sides.





Frisbee Splash

Float a few inner tubes and hula hoops in a pool. Players toss a Frisbee and try to land it in one of the "holes." Players take turns throwing the Frisbee and count how many throws it takes before making it in the hole. The girl with the lowest score wins.

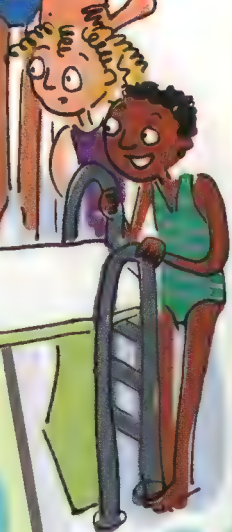
Wacky Water Relay

Divide into two teams. Each player on a team must swim to a line and back again while doing something different. For example, Player 1 swims with a pool noodle, Player 2 swims while pushing a beach ball, Player 3 uses an inner tube, and so on. After each girl completes her task, she must tag the next player. The first team to finish wins the race!



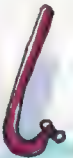
Noodle Races

Ride a bunch of noodles like a horse and race friends in a small circle. Whoever completes two laps the fastest is the winner.



Duplicate Diving

Choose someone to be the leader. She jumps into the pool in a funny way, and everyone else copies her. See whose leap gets the biggest laughs! ★



Cool off with a summer treat—ice cream sandwiches can't be beat!



Very Cherry

Scoop a little cherry ice cream onto a thin chocolate wafer. Add a small scoop of Cool Whip. Top with another thin chocolate wafer.



Ice Cream

Rainbow Delight

Scoop a little French vanilla ice cream between two colored vanilla wafers. Roll edges in candy sprinkles.



Graham-tastic

Place a banana slice on a chocolate-covered graham cracker cookie. Scoop a little strawberry ice cream onto the banana slice. Top with another cookie.



Polar Pop-Tarts

Scoop a little strawberry ice cream between Pop-Tart halves.

Mint Condition

Scoop a little mint chocolate chip ice cream between two chocolate mint cookies.



Dreams

Chip, Chip, Hooray!

Scoop a little chocolate chip cookie dough ice cream between two chocolate chip cookies. Roll edges in mini chocolate chips.



Tips:

* Soften ice cream about 5 minutes before scooping it onto cookies.

* Once you have made the sandwiches, freeze them until they are hard (about 30 minutes).

* If you aren't going to eat the sandwiches right away, cover each one with plastic wrap to keep them fresh.

* Invent your own ice cream sandwich! Experiment with different cookies and ice cream flavors. ★



An illustration of a beach scene. In the upper left, a young girl with dark hair in pigtails, wearing a purple wetsuit, is surfing on a pink board. She is leaning back with her arms outstretched, looking surprised. The surfboard has the words "OCEAN GIRL" written on it in yellow. In the lower right, a woman with dark hair, wearing a blue shirt and a pink headscarf, is sitting on a pink surfboard on the sand. She is looking up at the surfer with her hand to her chin in a thoughtful or surprised expression. The background shows a beach with sand, waves, and a palm tree in the upper right corner.

Off-Balance

by Jessica D.

Sisters Lani and Kalina have always been as close as can be. But will new friends pull them apart?



Cool sea spray misted my feet as I sliced through a huge wave on my surfboard, the roar of the ocean pounding through my head like my heartbeat magnified, charging me with adrenaline. It was right then that I attempted to do one of the stunts that I'd seen some of the better surfers do. Key word: *better*. I toppled face-first off my board, water shooting up my nose and making my eyes burn. As I wrapped my arms around my shortboard, my head bobbed up above the surface and I half-swam, half-washed-up to shore. I dragged my surfboard through the sand over to my family's favorite corner of the beach, where my only-one-year-older-than-me sister Lani was sitting by her own surfboard, watching me.

"You were doing great," she said as I flopped down beside her in the sand, "until you wiped out." Her almond-shaped eyes sparkled like wet pearls in the sunlight, and she shook her head. "You lost your balance again! You can't be doing all those stunts until you learn to stay on your board while you do 'em." She smiled at me. "Just keep trying."

I smiled back, pulling a strand of seaweed out of my hair. "Easy for you to say." Lani was the most dedicated twelve-year-old surfer who ever touched a wave. She was the one to inspire me to start surfing, back when I was nine and she was ten. It was then that we started calling ourselves the Ocean Girlz. We were so into it that we had the name spray-painted in curvy letters on our surfboards. I also had it engraved on a little charm shaped like a surfboard that dangled from a chain I wore around my neck.

Lani pulled a Kit-Kat bar out of her tote, split it

in half, and gave half to me. I licked at the slightly sticky chocolate. Sharing one of those was one of our Ocean Girlz traditions.

Lani ate her half and said, "My turn now."

Nibbling on my piece of chocolate, I held my hand over my eyes like an awning to watch my sister surf. We were getting ready for a surfing contest called Summer Waves. We didn't care if we won or not. We were going to do it for fun—together, as the Ocean Girlz.

Out in the ocean, Lani's hair whipped out behind her like a dark curtain, and her board carved through the wave with enviable precision. *Can't wait to compliment her on that*, I thought.

Lani came ashore and started walking toward me. But she was stopped midway by two girls I recognized from school. I ambled over to listen in.

"...it's going to be a lot of fun, and we'll be learning lots, too," Sandi was saying.

"Yeah," Marissa chirped. "It would be so much fun to have you!"

The girls scampered off, waving over their shoulders. Lani was waving too, calling, "O.K., see you later! And thanks!"

I reached over and brushed at some sand in Lani's hair. "Thanks for what?"

Lani flapped a blue flyer in my face. "Sandi and Marissa are starting a club about dolphins, and they want me to join." Her dark brown eyes had that happy shine in them that she usually reserved for surfing. "Sandi's mom is assistant manager at the aquarium, so we can go behind the scenes there, and Marissa says we'll meet out




here on the beach, but we'll figure out specific times online tonight, and—"

"You're really thinking about joining?" I asked, interrupting her.

"Yes," Lani replied. "It sounds like a lot of fun, and we'll be learning stuff and helping the environment in ways, too. And besides," she gushed, "I never thought about it before, but dolphins are absolutely adorable! And that noise they make—it's amazing. I'd like to hear it up close, and—"

"Yeah, well, that's nice," I interjected again. "I just hope it won't get in the way of surfing...and Summer Waves...and the Ocean Girlz."

Lani's eyes smiled and she nodded, but she kept chattering on and on about dolphins as if she hadn't heard me. That was O.K., because nothing had ever gotten in the way of the Ocean Girlz before, and I was pretty sure nothing ever would.

 he next day, the surf was radical. Lani and I had been out there since just about daybreak, and I had only fallen twice. Even though I had been surfing for almost two years, I still had trouble balancing sometimes.

See, I told myself as I paddled out to a rising wave, hands curved and scooping, *this Dolphin Club thing hasn't gotten in the way at all, and it probably won't. It's no biggie.* I got on a wave and rode it to shore, getting off with a happy splash.

I trooped over to our beach camp smiling, even though I knew I probably had seaweed or chocolate stuck in my teeth—or both. I stuck my surfboard in the sand and sat down beside it. "So, how'd I do?"

Lani was there. But Sandi and a couple of other girls were there, too, with a big blue umbrella stuck in the sand.

"Hi, everybody," I said politely. They all looked up from what they were doing and smiled back. I tugged on the back of Lani's swimsuit. "Psst. How'd I do?"

Lani turned around and looked at me. "Sorry, Kalina, I wasn't watching." She smiled proudly. "This is our first official Dolphin Club meeting!" She must have noticed the apprehensive look on my face and said, "Don't worry—we're almost done."

"Actually," Sandi said with a toss of her golden hair, "we're all going out for snow cones after the meeting." She blinked at Lani. "Will you come?"

"Snow cones?" asked Lani. She darted her eyes between the Club and me. "Will it take long?"



**Nothing had ever
gotten in the way of the
Ocean Girlz before.**



I shrugged. "You can go if you want, Lani."

Lani was quiet for a second. "Thanks, Kalina," she said softly for me alone to hear. "O.K., I'll go," she said aloud. The Dolphin Club members got up and started collecting their stuff. Marissa said, "You can come if you want to, Kalina."

"No thanks," I said. "I'm just gonna hang out around here."

Marissa shrugged and headed up the beach with the rest of the Club, including Lani. I trudged to the edge of the water and sat so that the water lapped against my toes, because I wasn't allowed to surf when I was by myself. I pulled a little mirror out of my beach bag, smiled at it, and then winced. There *was* seaweed stuck in my teeth. As I picked it out, I thought, *Lani probably would tell me about*



my messy smile if she were here. But I didn't have a messy smile right then—just a messy grimace.

By the time Lani got back, the sun was going down and even my hair was completely dry. She rushed over to me and pulled her board out of the sand. "Sorry I took so long," she said. "We ended up going to Sandi's house after we ate. We watched a nature documentary. It was so cool. It—"

"You were gone too long," I cut in. I felt a frown on my face as I pulled my board out of the sand and plodded up the beach.

Lani was right beside me, looking wistful. "I'm sorry." Her brown eyes were pleading. "I lost track of the time." She stopped walking. "But it won't happen again."

I stared down at my flip-flops. "Good," I said with a patient smile. "Tomorrow, let's have fun. Lots of fun. We'll have a pajama day at home. Make milkshakes with ice cream and Kit-Kats...and watch old movies." Glancing at her out of the corner of my eye, I continued, "It'll be an Ocean Girlz day."

"O.K." Lani flashed a wide smile at me. "It'll be fun. And I am sorry about what happened today."

"No worries, Lani," I replied. "I forgive you."

Lani smiled at me, and I grinned back. But I did feel a pang when I saw a dolphin sticker on her hand.

Late the next morning, my head shot up from my pillow. *It's our Ocean Girlz day!* I thought. I rushed into Lani's room shouting, "Rise and surf, Lani! C'mon, let's go!"

Lani was standing by her window, dressed in long jeans and a denim jacket.

"Lani?" I inquired. "What're you doing?"

Lani grabbed her purse. "Heidi's sister is taking us to the aquarium." She sounded excited. "Do you wanna come?"

I blinked. "Um, no," I replied. I sat on the floor. "I planned on having an Ocean Girlz day today—in my pajamas." *Hello?*

Lani slapped her hand against her forehead. "Ugh! I forgot! Heidi called to invite me this morning," she tried to explain. "You know I wouldn't have said yes if I had remembered."

A car horn honked outside. "They're here!" Lani raced out of the room like she had rockets on her feet, but then her head popped back through the door frame. "I'll be back really soon," she assured me. "Like, before noon. We can still have our Ocean Girlz day." Her brown eyes were trying to comfort me.

"O.K.," I said, even though it wasn't.



It was three o'clock in the afternoon when Lani got back. I had been watching the clock the whole time, in my pajamas. Alone.

She came in and sat down next to me. "Hi, Kalina," Lani said. "What'd you do all day?"

"Oh, you know," I replied sarcastically. I picked a fuzzy off my jammies. I felt my bottom lip poking out like a sofa cushion. "Today was an Ocean Girlz day, Miss I'll-be-back-really-soon."

"I *was* out longer than I thought I would be," Lani admitted. "Heidi took us to her house afterward. We made snow cones and watched movies."

My eyes grew wide. "Gee, that sounds familiar—like something you were supposed to do with me!"

Lani sighed. "I know, I know." She ran her hands through her hair. "But this won't happen again, I promise. In fact"—her eyes took on the shine that I loved—"I'm going to make it up to you. What do *you* wanna do?"

I smiled big. "We're going to surf for hours tomorrow—hang out on the beach and stuff. And then we'll go out for snow cones, since you seem to like them so much." My eyes twinkled playfully.

"Deal," Lani said, sliding her hand into mine and shaking it. She smiled. "And I promise to follow through."

The next day was a good surfing day, and just a good day in general. The beach wasn't overly crowded, and I was feeling ready for Summer Waves. As for Lani, she would've been ready with her feet tied together.

By noon, the two of us had ridden many waves, shared lots of laughs, and split way too many Kit-Kat bars. *Life's good again*, I thought. I was sitting in the sand next to Lani when a yell came up from the street. Squinting, I recognized Sandi in her mom's car.

"Hey, Lani!" Sandi shouted out the window. "We've been trying to find you!"

I'll bet, I scowled. I ran the rest of the way to Lani and put my arm on her shoulder.

Sandi shouted again. "Guess what? There's a dolphin lovers' convention downtown today. You wanna come?"

Lani glanced at me. I watched her smother the eagerness out of her eyes. "Nah, not today," she yelled back. "I'm surfing with my sister."

I smiled in surprise. *She's going to stay here—with me!*

Just a few minutes later, the Dolphin Club was gone and the two of us were back in the water, shredding it.

Just the Ocean Girlz way, I decided. *The way it should be.*

Everything stayed the Ocean Girlz way all the way 'til Friday night. Dinner had been pretty quiet. I was totally absorbed thinking about the Summer Waves competition, and I assumed Lani was, too. Lani broke the quiet over dessert. "Hey, Mama, look what I got in the mail today." She slid an envelope across the table. I noticed with a slight bit of discomfort that a dolphin sticker had been holding it shut.

"Marissa is having her birthday party tomorrow," Lani said while Mama read. "Her parents are renting a boat and taking her on a dolphin cruise. She only invited the Dolphin Club." Lani's eyes were wide. "May I go?"



"It's at three in the afternoon," Mama said slowly. I nearly choked on my fruit salad. "That's the same time as Summer Waves!"

"I know," Lani said. She looked neither pleased nor sorry. "But this is something that I really want to do. Please, Mama?"

"If that's what you want to do, Lani," Mama said.



"No, Lani!" I sprang out of my chair like a startled frog. "What about Summer Waves? What about surfing? What about the Ocean Girlz?" I felt them staring at me, but I didn't care. "It's all because of this goofy Dolphin Club!" I fumed. "It's making you dump everything—including me!" I flew out of the room and into my bedroom, slamming the door behind me. I didn't talk to Lani for the rest of the day.



I went to Summer Waves by myself, and I felt lonely without Lani. I was angry that she bailed on me, and I didn't surf that well. When the competition was all over, I sat alone on the beach. I felt disappointed and wondered why Lani would abandon me like this.

Suddenly, Lani was there beside me. "Hey, Kalina," she said as she sat next to me.

"Hi, Lani," I said cheerlessly. I fidgeted with the surfboard charm on my necklace. "How was your dolphin party?"

 **I felt lonely without
Lani. I was angry that
she bailed on me.** 

Lani's lips bunched up into a pink knot. "Not so exciting," she sighed. "The boat smelled rotten, and the ice cream cake melted." She sighed again. "And we didn't see *any* dolphins."

"So," I said, my voice strained, "it wasn't worth bailing on me, huh?"

Lani looked at me. "It most certainly wasn't. But I don't regret going. It was something that I really wanted to do." She paused. "It was so hard to choose."

"So, you *did* want to surf today?" I asked.

Lani dragged her fingers through the sand. "Yeah, I did. I really, really did. But I wanted to see dolphins, too. I don't know. I guess..."

"You guess," I picked up for her, "you just needed to find your balance? Like you've been telling me?"

Lani looked at me. Her eyes were serious. "Yeah," she said. "My balance. So that I won't have to be shifting around and bailing on the Dolphin Club for Ocean Girlz or vice versa."



I pursed my lips. "What do you mean, 'bailing on the Dolphin Club'? All you ever bailed on was me!"

Lani shook her head. "All week they've been trying to get me to do stuff with them." She smiled. "I told them that I wanted to hang out with my sister."

So Lani actually did choose me some of the time!

Then Lani said, "I got something for you."

Reaching around me, she unfastened my necklace, slid something down it, and refastened it. Sparkling in the light beside my Ocean Girlz surfboard charm was a small blue charm that looked like a sliver of the sky. It was in the shape of a dolphin.

"I know it's not much," Lani said, "but I thought you might like it."

I threw my arms around her for a hug, and she did the same. Then something caught my eye. The sleek form of a dolphin leapt out of the ocean and splashed back down into the waves.

I looked at Lani to see if she'd seen it. I could tell by the shine in her eyes that she had.

"This calls for a celebration," Lani said. She

plunked her hand into her purse and pulled out a red packet. She snapped it in half and handed it to me. I peeled back the wrapper to reveal a tempting layer of milk chocolate.

"To the Ocean Girlz?" Lani held up her half.

I grinned as I bumped my Kit-Kat against hers.

"To the Ocean Girlz!" ★

Meet the Author



Jessica D.

I've visited the beach nearly every year, so it was a breeze for me to describe the ocean. However, I've never seen anybody surf except on TV, so before I could start writing, I had to do research. Now I know just about everything about surfing—except how to actually do it!

Jessica, age 13, lives in Mississippi. She won our story contest in 2007.



by Shannon Payette Seip

Summer Stumppers

Take this quiz and see if you can answer these silly summer questions.

First of All

Of the two things listed, which do you think came first?

1. Soda or lemonade?

2. Bubble gum or lollipop candy?



3. Roller skates or skateboards?

4. Roller coaster or roller coasters?

Higher or Lower

The numbers in the following statements are wrong. Guess if the actual amount is higher or lower.

5. The biggest ice cream sundae ever created used 10,000 lemons for about 7,500 customers—and less cream.

6. Watermelon has the most seeds in the world.



7. The world's tallest waterfall is 355 feet tall, as tall as the Statue of Liberty.

8. The boy and girl who built the first roller coaster had up to five times as much weight. That's like you carrying your two best friends on your back.



True or False

Are these statements

true or false?

Take a guess!

9. Mosquitoes

are more likely to bite you if you're wearing red.

10. Popsicles were

first called "Epsicles."

11. Summer can get so

hot that corn can actually

pop while it's still

growing in

the field.

Pop!

Pop!

Pop!



Answers

1. **Soda.** Bubbly beverages

were concocted in 1767.

The first carbonated drink

was a fizzy mineral water.

Soda sippers started using

straws in 1888.

2. **Cotton candy.** The pink

confection spun into existence in

1897, when it first was sold at the

Ringling Brothers Circus. Although

chewing gum has been around for

centuries, bubble gum didn't pop

up until 1928.

3. **Roller skates.** In the early

1700s, a Dutchman nailed wooden

spools to strips of wood, fixed

them to his shoes, and started

skating. Skateboards wheeled

onto the streets in the 1950s.

4. **Roller coasters.** The roller

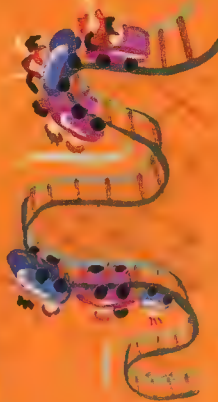
coaster dashed into history in

1817. It began as a machine to carry

coal, but soon it became a ride for

people. The Ferris wheel didn't roll

along until 1893.



5. **Higher.** The world's largest ice

cream sundae, made in Canada in

1988, used 44,689 pounds of ice

cream. That's 11,172 cartons! The

sundae was covered with 9,688

pounds of syrup and 517 pounds

of toppings!

6. **False.** Watermelons actually

have about 300 seeds.



7. **False.** "Killmanjaro"—a

waterslide in Brazil—will give you

a nail-biting ride at 163 feet. That's

as tall as a 13-story building!

8. **Higher.** An ant can actually

carry 50 times its body weight.

That's like you carrying a car on

your back!

9. **False.** Actually, mosquitoes

are attracted to blue twice as

much as other colors.

10. **True.** The Epsicle

was named for Frank

Epperson, who in 1905



Brainwaves

activities and puzzles



Crazy Carnival



Step right up and get your tickets to this brain-bending carnival. Beware! Some amusements may be trickier than you think. Go visit the Hint House if you get stuck.

ZENA the ZOMBIE

Walk behind the curtain and see Zzz-less Zena! So far, Zena has stayed awake for nine days! What's her secret?

Merry Go Round

Circle the only animal on this ride that won't work backward.

1. rat 2. bat 3. pig 4. deer

Snack Shacks

Based on the other snack shacks, circle the logical snack that Brooklyn should sell.

Liberty Lemonade

Fish Sticks

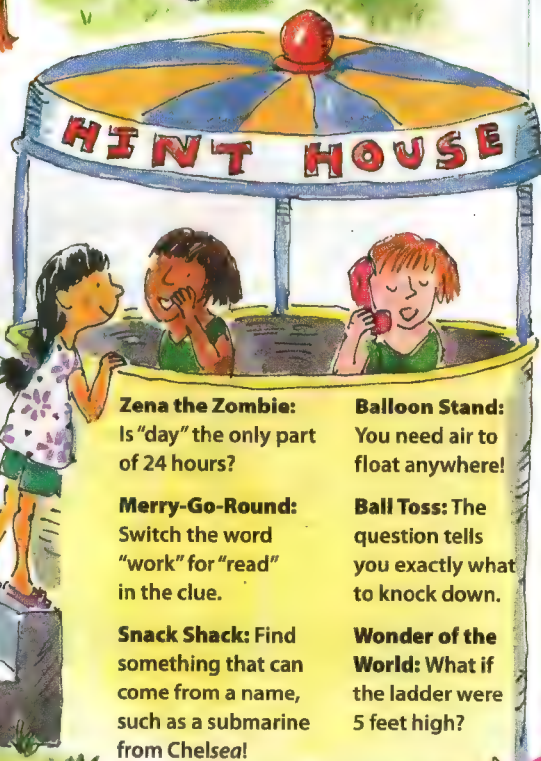
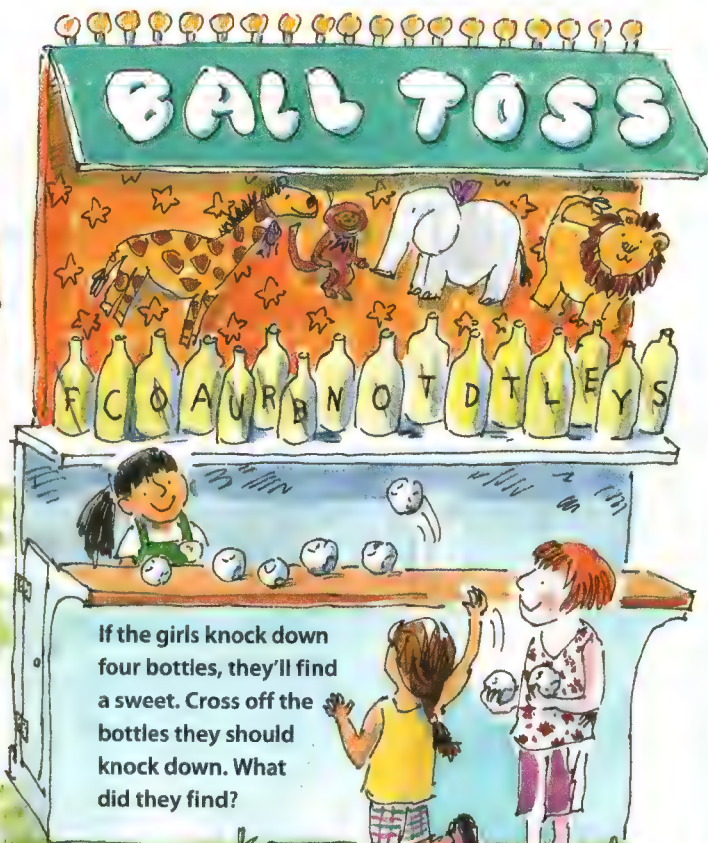
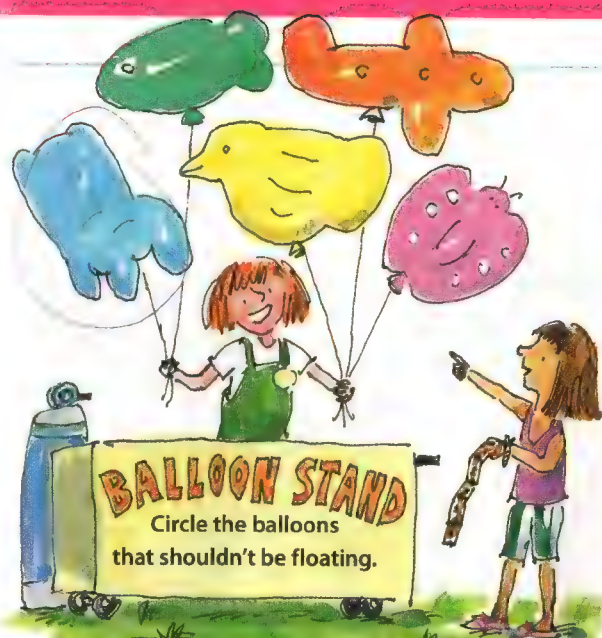
City Ice Cream

Chelsea's Submarine Sandwiches

Shelly's Fried Clams

Sandra's Crab Cakes

Brooklyn's Opening Soon



Cool Logic

A group of friends stops at an ice cream stand. Use the clues to figure out which different flavor each girl bought. We did one for you.

- Hayden loves strawberry.
- Vanessa is allergic to chocolate.
- Lizzie hates mix-ins.
- Jade's ice cream is green.

| | chocolate | strawberry | mint Oreo | Rocky Road | fresh peach |
|---------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| Hayden | NO | YES | NO | NO | NO |
| Vanessa | NO | NO | no | no | no |
| Lizzie | yes | NO | no | no | no |
| Jade | no | NO | no | no | no |
| Erin | no | NO | no | no | no |

Sign Scramble

It took the girls a minute to figure out how to get to the bumper cars. Unscramble each sign to help them figure out which way to go.



And They're Off!

In the spaces below, write each racehorse's name so that it joins the name to its left to make a new word, such as Peanut Butter.

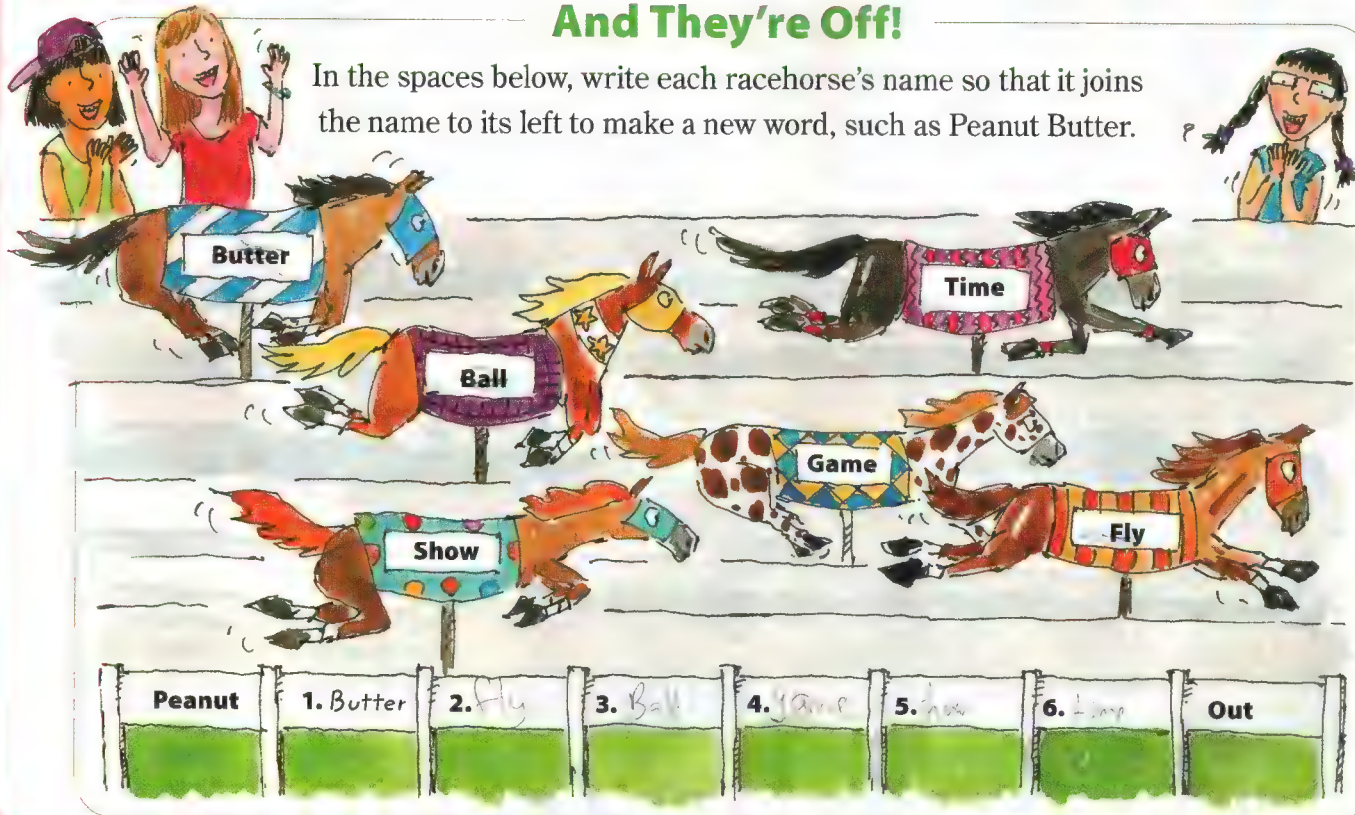


Photo Fun

Friends Jessica L. and Alicia S. of California sent us this photo.

Can you figure out which strip completes the striped shot?



I Can Read Your Mind

Astound your friends with this number trick!

1. Ask a person to silently pick a number between 1 and 10.

2. Tell the person to multiply the number by 9, add the digits of the answer together, and then subtract 5 from the total.



3. Tell the person to write down the new number on a piece of paper and fold it up.

4. Take the folded piece of paper and hold it to your forehead, pretending that you're trying to concentrate. Then say, "The number you wrote down is ... 4!" You'll be right—no matter what number the person started with, the solution is always 4.

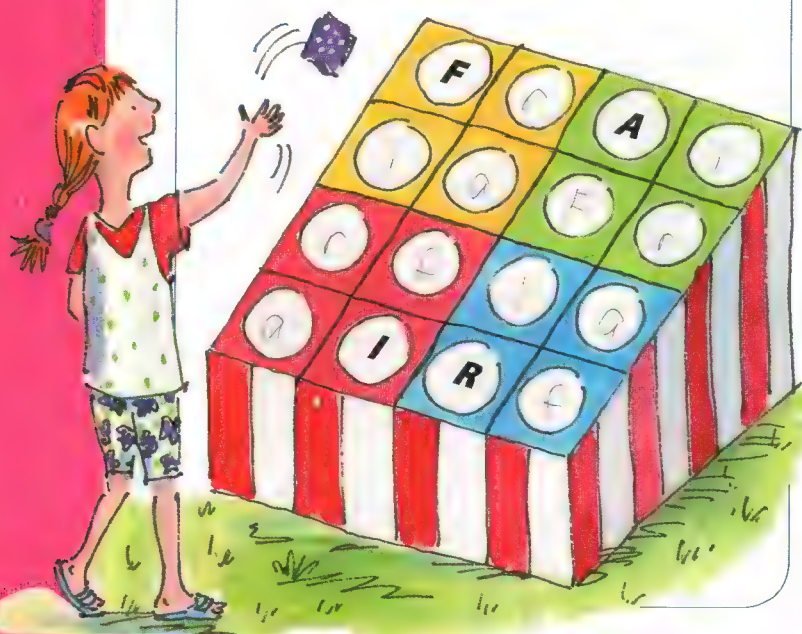
Souvenir Stand

Which cowgirl hat is missing from the souvenir display?



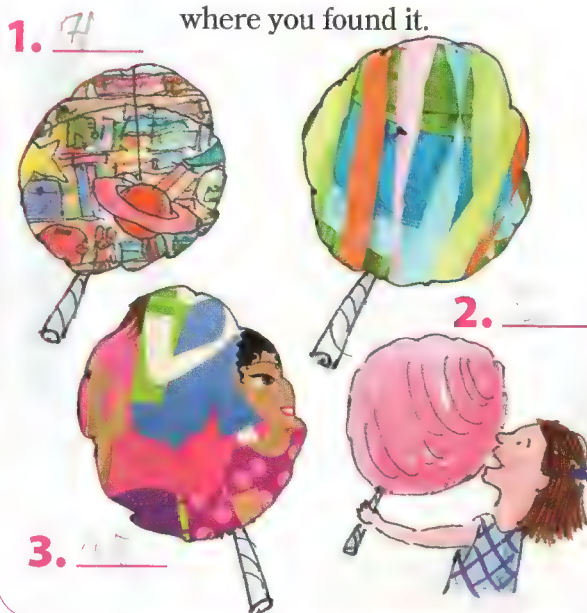
Fun at the Fair

Write the letters F, A, I, or R in each square so that each row, column, and colored box uses every letter once.



Art Sleuth

Search the pages of this issue to find where each snippet of a photo or illustration came from. Write down the page number where you found it.



Laffateria

What treat would a deer choose?



Maddie C.
Age 11, Tennessee

What did one cream puff say to the other after a long day at the fair?



Elena P.
Age 12, California

When do you go on red and stop on green?



Megan J.
Age 12, Indiana

What do you get when a cow goes on a roller coaster?



Barcey P.
Age 10, Illinois

What did the hamburger name his daughter?



Emily H.
Age 12, Indiana

Penny Business
Send your best joke to Brats.
We've got letters to this address on page 2. Include your name, birth date, school phone, and signature.

What's in the middle of Oreos?



Grace R.
Age 8, Illinois

If you were at a candy stand and were about to die, what candy would you buy?



Lauren M.
Age 12, Pennsylvania



Midway Mix-up

Look forward, backward, up, down, and diagonally to find the carnival games listed below.



Break-a-plate
Cakewalk
Claw game
Dunk tank
Duck pond
Penny pitch
Pie throw
Ring toss
Skee-ball
Stand the bottle

J P E N N Y P I T C H W Q L
H Z B G B M P C A D F X L L
I O R Y D E M A G W A L C A
C V E N R P L K W Q U J K B
S T A N D T H E B O T T L E
S A K T D N M W F Y E Q S E
O H A X O U R A N P W H F K
T J P O R E N L D G C B K S
G R L Q W Z G K E H M P O D
N R A F W O R H T E I P W Q
I A T N H M U L A A R X Z U
R P E L D U C K P O N D O P
B F P D L S Y T Z C F K A K

Answer Box

Passion for Fashion
Pirate costume, snorkeling wetsuit, tankini, winter snowsuit, ballerina outfit, princess gown



Girls Express
The buzzword, flurry, can be found on page 24.

J P E N N Y P I T C H W Q L
H Z B G B M P C A D F X L L
I O R Y D E M A G W A L C A
C V E N R P L K W Q U J K B
S T A N D T H E B O T T L E
S A K T D N M W F Y E Q S E
O H A X O U R A N P W H F K
T J P O R E N L D G C B K S
G R L Q W Z G K E H M P O D
N R A F W O R H T E I P W Q
I A T N H M U L A A R X Z U
R P E L D U C K P O N D O P
B F P D L S Y T Z C F K A K

Midway Mix-up

Art Sleuth
1. 71; 2. 32; 3. 25

Fun at the Fair



Souvenir Stand



Photo Fun
Strip D
And They're Off!
2. Fly; 3. Ball; 4. Game;
5. Show; 6. Time

Sign Scramble

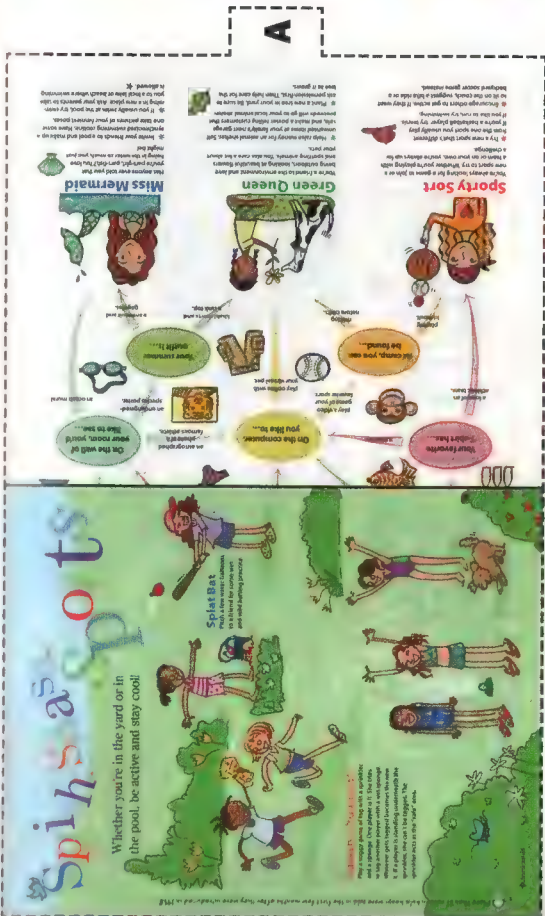
The girls would follow sign 3, which points to rides. The other signs direct the girls to exit, restrooms, and tickets.

Hayden: strawberry
Vanessa: fresh peach
Lizzie: chocolate
Jade: mint Oreo
Erin: Rocky Road

Cool Logic

Zena the Zombie: She slept nights! words spell a word backward.
Snack Shacks: Brooklyn sells fish sticks. Each shack sells a food that comes from a part of its name.
Balloon Stand: The chair and airplane should be floating. They're the only ones with "air" in them.
Ball Toss: If the girls knock down f-o-u-n-b-o-o-t-l-e-s, they'll find candy.
Wonder of the World: She'll drop the vase from 5 feet. It won't break for the first 4 feet!

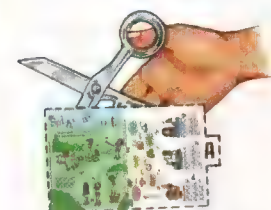
Crazy Carnival



Mini Mag

With the Mini Mag, you can make a miniature copy of *American Girl* for your doll or stuffed animal. All you need are scissors and a stapler. Read the directions all the way through before you begin.

1 Cut out each pair of pages only on the dotted lines. Be sure to cut around the tabs marked with the letters A, B, C, and D.



2 Stack the pages on top of one another in the order shown below, with the letters on the tabs facing up.



Continued

Have a Snappy

Summer

☆ American Girl

GROW. Dream. Believe.



Make a



Splash



Friends Add

Color



to Life



☆ American Girl

HELP!

Dear American Girl,

My brother and sister are really good at video games, and I'm not. When I play with them, they laugh at me. Can you help?
can't play

You'll get better at video games if you practice. Can you play by yourself to build your skills? Or invite a friend over—playing with someone else might be more fun and will help you get better at the same time. Keep in mind that the point of games is to have fun, so try not to take them too seriously.



Dear American Girl,

I want an iPod really badly, but I don't have enough money to pay for it. Most of my money has been put away for college. My parents won't lend me money or pay me for the chores I do. I have tried everything!
money madness

If your parents say it's O.K. for you to get an iPod, maybe you can earn some money of your own. Think about what you're good at, and turn it into a business. Are you



responsible? Maybe you can water your neighbors' garden when they're on vacation. Are you good with kids? Maybe you can be a mother's helper in your neighborhood. Or maybe you can clean your room and sell some unwanted items at your family's garage sale. Talk to your parents about your ideas. When they see that you're serious about earning money—instead of just asking for it—they might help you out.



Dear American Girl,

My best friend interrupts me every time I'm talking. Then I forget what I was going to say before she interrupted me. It gets so annoying! Please help.
An Annoyed Friend

The next time she interrupts, nicely say, "Excuse me, but I was talking." She might get the hint. But if she keeps interrupting you, pick a good time to talk to her and say something like, "I know you don't mean to do it, but you interrupt me sometimes and I end up feeling frustrated. Can you try not to?" Give her a chance to change her bad habit.



Dear American Girl,

I just started gymnastics, and I liked it at first, but now I'd rather do horseback riding. The problem is that my mom just bought me a new gymnastics outfit! I don't want her to feel as if she wasted money on me.

Flipped Out

Don't quit gymnastics just yet. Give it a chance. Stick with it for a little while longer and then see whether you'd rather do horseback riding. Also, tell your mom how you're feeling so that she doesn't spend even more money on outfits for this sport until you're sure you're going to stick with it.

MORE HELP!

Dear American Girl,

I'm going to camp for the first time, and I'm scared. What should I do?

Unhappy Camper

Tell your parents about your fears. Try to figure out what scares you most about camp, and find out more about it. The camp should be able to give you information about what to expect, which will make you feel better. Plan to bring some comforting items, too, such as a favorite book or letters from your parents. Remember that most kids who go to camp love it. If you focus on the fun you're going to have, it will be easier to handle your fear.



Dear American Girl,

My friends always come over and take out all of my toys. Then, when they leave, I have to clean up. I feel that my friends should clean up because they took out the toys.

Not My Problem

The best solution is for everyone to help put things away—including you. The next time your friends



visit, ask a parent to give you a signal about 20 minutes before they have to leave. When you get the signal, say, "Hey, we've got to clean up now. Would you please give me a hand?" If you all work together, it won't take very long.



Dear American Girl,

My whole family thinks my favorite color is pink, but I like electric green better. My mom always buys me pink clothes. Tell me how to break the news to my family!

Color Confused

Sometimes it's hard for people to realize that as girls grow up, their tastes change. If you used to like pink, your family just thinks that you still do. Telling them you don't

doesn't have to be a big deal, but be kind—focus on how much you love green now instead of how much you hate pink.



Dear American Girl,

I accidentally told my best friend's most personal secret without thinking. Now she is mad and won't talk to me. I would do just about anything to be her friend again. How can I do it?

desperate

First, take responsibility for your actions. Telling someone's secret doesn't happen "accidentally." Even though you didn't mean to hurt your friend, you did, so you should apologize. Try to talk to her in person, but if she really won't speak to you, apologize in a letter. Admit that you were wrong to tell her secret. Say you're sorry you did, and tell her what you wish you would've done instead. Let her know that you miss her and hope she'll give you another chance. Give her time—if you apologize sincerely, she may be willing to be friends again.

even
MORE HELP!

Dear American Girl,

I have so much stuff and a tiny little room. I clean it regularly, but it's always messy. I've tried getting rid of things I don't need, but I still have a lot of stuff and no place to put it. I'm ashamed to have friends over!

Miss Messy

Make sure you have places to put your stuff. Use plastic storage bins in your closet, on shelves, and under your bed. If your room is still a disaster, put the things you don't use all the time into storage in an attic or garage. Winter clothes can be stored in the summer, and so can out-of-season sports equipment. Once your room is under control, try not to add new stuff without getting rid of something old to make space.

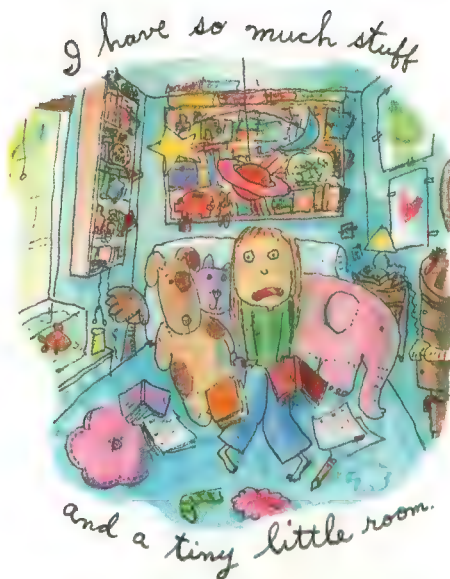


Dear American Girl,

All of my friends like music except me. I always feel left out!

NO MUSIC

If your friends talk about music that you haven't heard, give it a try. Ask them to play their favorite songs for you. You might find something you



enjoy. Sometimes you have to hear a song a few times before you like it. Even if music doesn't end up being one of your favorite things, knowing a little bit about it will let you be part of your friends' discussions.



Dear American Girl,

My parents make me go to bed early on the weekends. My friends can stay up late. Why can't I?

Too Early For Bed

What are you like when you first wake up? Bright and sunny, or more of a grump? Your parents might be keeping you to your regular bedtime so that you can be your best in the morning. Staying up late and then sleeping in can mess up your regular sleep schedule, too, and

make it harder to get up on weekdays. Still, if you know you can avoid being a bear in the morning, ask your parents if you can try staying up just a little later on weekends.



Dear American Girl,

Whenever my friend and I make a craft together, she gives her finished craft to me. I feel bad because I want to keep the craft I made. Any ideas?

Confused in CA

Knowing what the plan is before you get crafty will keep you from getting stuck in this situation again. Pick a craft that you both agree ahead of time to exchange when you're done. Jewelry and photo crafts are good to make and give to friends. If you make your craft with your friend in mind, you won't mind giving it away. And when you do find a craft that you want to make for yourself, just mention it at the beginning. Saying something about choosing colors to match your room will let your friend know that you plan to keep your creation.



Dear American Girl,

I can't swim! I'm embarrassed because everybody I know can swim. What should I do?

Sinking Feeling

Summer is a great time to learn to swim! Ask your parents if you can sign up for a swim class or lessons. Chances are you won't be the only one your age in the class, either. But even if you are, the important thing is that you're there to learn. The sooner you start, the sooner you'll be splashing with your friends.



Dear American Girl,

Whenever I try to get off the phone with my friend to do something, like watch TV, she gets really mad that I'd rather watch TV than talk to her. What can I say to get off the phone without starting a fight?

Phone Frenzy

Try to see this from your friend's point of view. Anyone would feel bad to hear, "Well, my show is on, so I'll talk to you later." Next time, don't go into a lot of detail about why you want to get off the phone.



Say, "It's been great talking to you! I've got to go, but let's get together soon." If you end on a positive note, your friend won't end up mad.



Dear American Girl,

My parents won't let me get my ears pierced. I tried asking them politely, but they think I won't clean the holes. They think I am too young, even though I am 11. Please help!

Ear I Go Again

Start by making sure you're getting all of your current responsibilities done—especially your personal care—without being reminded. That means doing homework on time, keeping track of important papers, feeding pets, brushing your teeth, taking showers, keeping your

room neat, helping siblings, etc. If you can do that for a few weeks, talk to your parents again. Offering to pay for the ear piercing and supplies with your own money may help convince them, too. If you act responsible and stay calm, your parents may agree to let you get your ears pierced. Good luck!



Advice from You

"When I'm mad at someone over something small, I write down the things about the person that made me angry. Then I write down all the things I like about that person. When I compare lists, I realize that there are a lot more good things about the person than bad things, and I'm missing out on a great friend by staying mad over nothing."

Emily S.

Age 13, Michigan

Need advice? Got advice? Write: Help!

American Girl magazine

8400 Fairway Place
Middleton, WI 53562

Check out more behind-the-scenes photos from our Island Party at "Fun for Girls" at americangirl.com.



To learn great tricks, Jackie has spent many hours getting special training with her water-skiing team. To see a video of her in action, go to "Fun for Girls" at americangirl.com.

Behind the Scenes

This jumbo issue of *American Girl* is packed with fun and sun!

Go to "Fun for Girls" at americangirl.com and click on "Magazine Activities" to see more contest entries. Here are some huge sunglasses made by Meghan and Josie S. from Ohio.



Claire F. from Colorado sent us a game called Fashion Fun. To learn how to play, go to "Fun for Girls" at americangirl.com.

WIN IT!

HAWAII

Win a box of Hawaiian-inspired supplies for your very own Island Party. Turn to page 2 to find out how to enter.



Wishes and Wisdom

AG readers share what they wish they'd known when they were younger.



Hair Help

Tips and tricks for detangling your worst hair hassles



American Girl

Go to
americangirl.com
and click on "Fun for
Girls" for more
magazine fun!

Coming up in the September/October issue

Monstrous Fun

Make clever Halloween crafts out of plain pumpkins.

Left Out

Advice from girls like you about how to deal with not being included

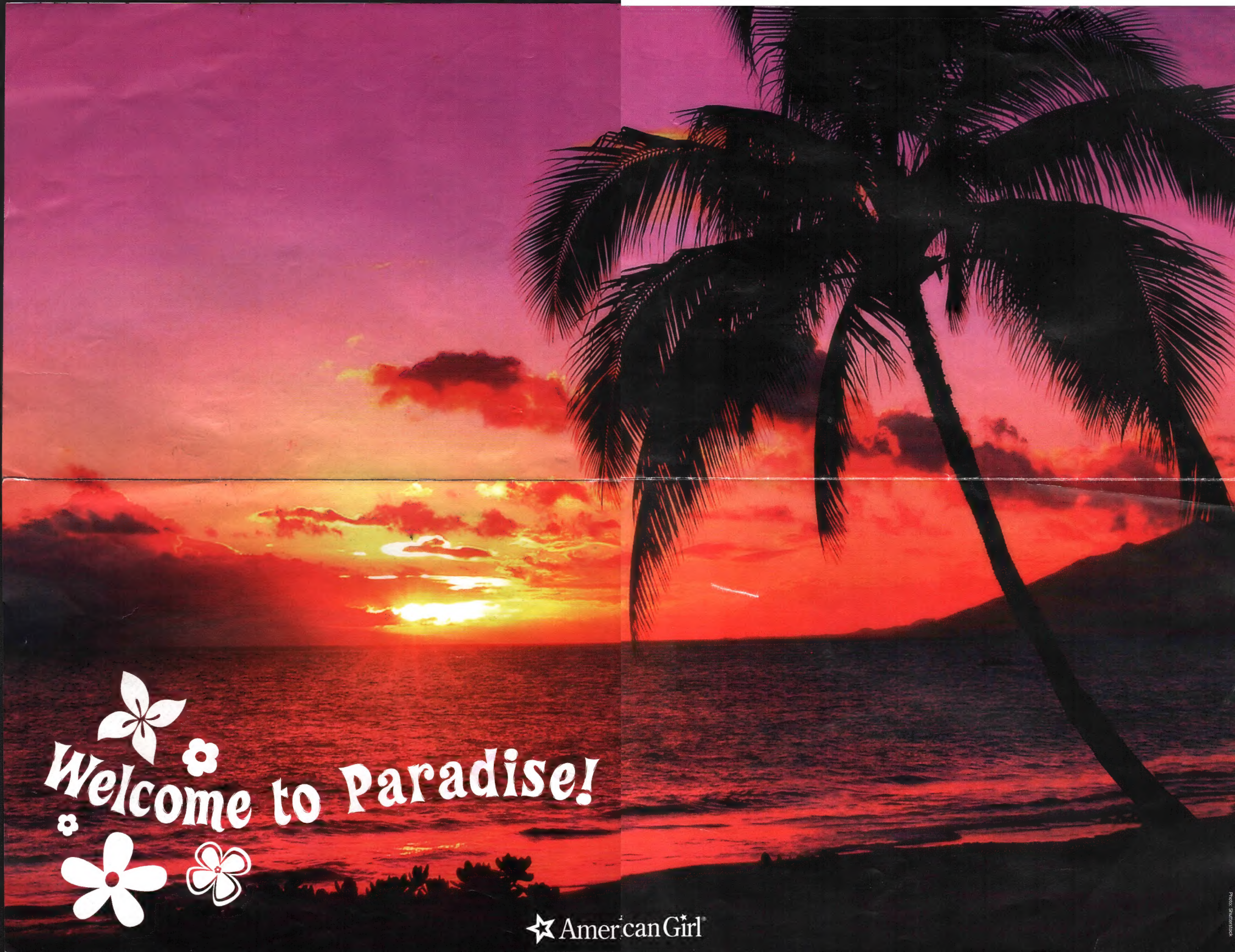
Show Your Spirit!

Creative ways to make this school year the best ever

Boo Who?

See the most original costumes dreamed up by girls like you!





Welcome to Paradise!

★ American Girl®

